# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-88-231* *1 December 1988*

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## 1 December Middle East and South Asia Review

LD0112133488 [Editorial Report]

### Israel

**Coalition Prospects**—The Labor Party Bureau decided against entering negotiations with the Likud on the coalition terms offered by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that the 61-57 vote against entering the coalition was a surprise defeat for Labor leaders Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin.

Shamir responded to the decision by expressing "regret" over the Labor Party Bureau's "lack of consideration for Israel's real national interest" and announcing his intention to reach agreements with "all the relevant parties" to establish a government. Speaking in an interview with Jerusalem radio, Shamir said he hopes to persuade Agudat Yisra'el to change its allegiance from the Alignment to the Likud, adding he will do "everything possible" to achieve his objective of presenting a government to the Knesset on 5 December.

The formation of a narrow-based Likud coalition was facilitated by the signing of a coalition agreement between the Likud and SHAS whereby the latter will receive two portfolios, Jerusalem radio noted. A SHAS spokesman told the radio that the Likud has committed itself to supporting a new law of conversion.

While noting that the Alignment also has a chance of forming a government in view of its partnership agreement with Agudat Yisra'el, Jerusalem radio said the Labor Party would face problems in this regard because of the opposition of other potential coalition partners to any deal with Agudat Yisra'el.

In an interview with Jerusalem television, Peres said he does not intend to begin negotiations on the establishment of a government as long as the president continues to entrust this task to Shamir, but he stressed Shamir will be unable to obtain a majority without the support of Agudat Yisra'el.

**Security**—Firebombs were thrown at the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem but nobody was hurt, Jerusalem radio reported. A Palestinian was seriously wounded during disturbances in the territories, Jerusalem television noted.

### Palestinian Affairs

Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, wrote in the JORDAN TIMES that "the PNC has explicitly recognized Israel's right to exist" by accepting UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 181. He also said the PNC declaration in Algiers superseded the PLO Charter, annulling the sections that have been interpreted as a call for the destruction of Israel.

In contrast, PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi stated that the question of recognizing Israel cannot be discussed before the convocation of an international peace conference, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

In Sudan, the PLO representative announced that the PLO office in Khartoum will be transformed into an embassy, according to Omdurman National Unity Radio.

### Iraq

**New Missile**—A new anti-missile missile called Al-Faw-1 was unveiled on Iraqi television, INA reported. The missile, which was the product of efforts by Iraqi scientists, successfully destroyed medium- and short-range surface-to-surface missiles in recent tests, according to Baghdad radio.

**Relations With Iran**—First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan named the power struggle in Iran as one of the factors hindering the Geneva peace talks, KUNA reported. He said despite pressure from "some permanent Security Council members," Iraq will not offer Iran any compromises. He also suggested that a new peace accord be drawn up, annulling all previous ones, including the Algiers agreement of 1975.

On the issue of the POW exchange, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz accused the Iranian regime of "trickery and fraud" and said Iraq will not release the remaining POW's unless Iran releases the agreed number of Iraqi POW's first.

### Iran

According to the clandestine Iran's Flag of Freedom radio, 31 members of the Tudeh Party, including 4 from the Politburo and 3 from the Central Committee, have been executed.

### Afghanistan

Mujahidin sources disclosed that talks with Soviet officials will begin in Jeddah 4 December, AFP reported. The sources said the talks will focus on the means to complete a Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

## Palestinian Affairs

### Further Reaction to Denial of Visa for 'Arafat

#### Salah Khalaf Attacks Decision

*JN3011134888 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 28 Nov 88 pp 1, 20*

[Excerpts] Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf has called for an Arab reply to the U.S. challenge represented by the refusal by the U.S. secretary of state to grant 'Arafat an entry visa to deliver a speech before the UN General Assembly. He said the Arabs should tell the United States to stop playing tricks and end its bias toward Israel. He wondered: How can the United States, which denies an entry visa to its territories, hold an international conference attended by the PLO?

The Palestinian leader affirmed the PLO should be judged by its recent statement not by its previous actions. By this, he was referring to accusations against Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], and others working under 'Arafat's leadership, of terrorism. He said he is not optimistic about the possibility of convening an international conference at present. Nor was he optimistic during the PNC session. However, he considers the reasons behind the issuance of the PNC political statement as valid. [passage omitted]

Commenting on Washington's decision, Salah Khalaf said: The U.S. decision has shocked the Arab nation and Third World countries. In his last days, Shultz defied the Arabs and opened the door for the extremists to dominate the arena. By this he proved that U.S. policy is still playing tricks in the region and completely defies the feelings of the Arab nation in general and the Palestinian nation in particular.

The United States is mistaken if it believes that by taking such positions it will force us to retreat. We will continue our struggle and the uprising in the occupied territories with all our might to achieve our goals and those of the Arab nation and the Palestinian people.

This defiant U.S. position should receive an Arab reply. However, regret and condemnation are no longer sufficient. What is needed is an Arab position to get the United States to end its trickery and its bias toward Israel. This is an Arab requirement. It is not a question of a visa for 'Arafat. 'Arafat does not want to go to New York to spend his vacation in the United States. He wants to explain his cause and the poltitical initiative which was launched by the PNC and in which the Palestinian people talked for the first time about offering certain things that were forbidden in the past.

We were surprised by this U.S. position. How can the United States hold an international conference to be attended by the PLO while it denies 'Arafat an entry visa to address the United Nations? This is the question that is imposing itself on every Palestinian. I believe this U.S. policy will force us to convene another PNC session to discuss the issue and pursue another policy in response to the U.S. policy.

Asked by AL-SIYASAH if this U.S. position violates previous pledges from Washington through third parties, the Palestinian leader said the PLO made no contacts with the United States but it knew Washington could read the PNC's political statement well and understand its content. But Washington met Israel's desire for preventing Yasir 'Arafat from going to the United Nations.

Salah Khalaf also stressed U.S. bias toward Israeli reasoning. Asked about how Washington can hold a dialogue with 'Arafat while it accuses him of terrorism to justify denying him a visa, he said that raising the issue of Abu al-'Abbas and some others working under 'Arafat is irrelevant. He added that the PLO issued a historic statement and should be judged in light of that statement. He added: If we are judged by previous actions, what shall we say to Shamir and Israel's leaders?

Khalaf said he is not optimistic about the convening of the international peace conference, adding he was not optimistic even during the PNC session in Algiers. He said: what took place in Algiers is good and we should continue it until we corner Israel and the United States before world public opinion. He recalled that in his speech before the PNC, he said the PNC's political statement was not directed to the United States or Israel but to European public opinion and to our friends in the Soviet Union and the nonaligned countries. I believe the reasons behind the issuance of the statement are still valid. Therefore, we should not be pessimistic. [passage omitted]

#### Arabs Urged To Withdraw Envoys

*JN3011125288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf has called on Arab countries to withdraw their ambassadors in Washington until the end of President Ronald Reagan's term in office next month in protest against the U.S. decision refusing to give Yasir 'Arafat a visa to visit the United Nations.

#### 'Arafat Appeals to UN

*JN3011210788 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1926 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has called on the UN member states to adopt a unified stand against the arbitrary U.S. decision denying him an entry visa to New York. He also called for securing a neutral venue that is far from effects that prevent the freedom to come and speak on the Palestine question.

In a message to the UN committee for the Palestinian people's exercise of their inalienable and legitimate rights on the world day for solidarity with the Palestinian people, brother Abu 'Ammar said this disgraceful decision is hostile not only to the Palestinian people, but it is a hostile stand toward the United Nations and constitutes flagrant interference in its internal affairs.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar expressed confidence that the UN committee will exert its utmost to defend the Palestinian people's rights and right to express themselves before the United Nations. He also stressed confidence that the committee will exert all efforts to make the process of a just and comprehensive peace succeed and will contribute toward ending our people's suffering and the injustice inflicted on them.

### Decision 'Declaration of War'

*JN3011160388 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1957 GMT 29 Nov 88*

[Political commentary: "It Is High Time for Arab Anger; It Is High Time for Arab Solidarity"]

[Text] Brothers, sons of our great Palestinian people, sons of our glorious Arab nation: The black decision taken by the U.S. Administration to prevent brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman, from visiting the UN headquarters in New York to deliver Palestine's speech amounts to a declaration of war by the United States against the PLO and the Palestinian people. It is a declaration of the greatest contempt of the international community. This black decision is still stirring a strong wave of wide reactions on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels.

The Palestinian reaction was represented with more popular rallying around the leadership of brother Abu 'Ammar, with more escalation of the heroic blessed uprising, and with more comprehensiveness of the Palestinian awareness that the United States is now standing in the first hostile trench against our people and nation. This clear American hostility imposes more duties on our people in the confrontation. Our people are able to shoulder these duties that will correspond to the aggressiveness of the U.S. stand and deter the hands of this black, foolish, and reckless U.S. policy.

Certainly, our Palestinian people, who proved their effective and strong presence on both the struggle and political arenas, will always be able to fight all experiences and confront the aggression and hate that results from the U.S. decisions, so that the American people themselves realize that the policy of absolute blind bias toward Israel which is pursued by their government will only bring them catastrophe.

Hate will only bear hate and playing with fire on this ugly level by the U.S. Administration will burn the fingers of many. The spirit of revenge and hatred that governs American behavior does not befit the responsibilities of the superpowers. The United States must at the end submit to the affirmed fact that there is no peace but the Palestinian peace and that there is no calm, stability, and security unless all of these pass through the gate of Palestine.

The talk about the reactions of the U.S. stand will certainly lead us to the Arab stand that expressed itself by a swift response to the benefit of the Arab nation's dignity by condemning the U.S. stand, by beginning efforts to move the discussions about Palestine outside of New York, and by the strength of the move and calls between the Arab brothers for the need to quickly build Arab solidarity, which is now centralized around the Palestinian cause, its continuous developments, and the struggles of its great people.

It is high time for Arab anger to arise. It is high time for Arab solidarity to begin. With the atmosphere of reconciliation, restoration of relations, and the entrenchment of the spirit of brotherhood and trust, under the shadow of good efforts and under the sun of challenge, the hope is getting greater every day that Arabs will certainly be able to rebuild their effective solidarity which is a basic condition for the continuation of life itself.

If all Arabs in all of their countries always assert that the Palestinian question is the Arab nation's central cause, then the greatest glory for this cause is that it always remains the hot spring from which Arab solidarity and the effectiveness of the unified Arab stand flow. We will continue on the path of victory.

### Faruq Qaddumi Comments on Recognition of Israel

*JN3011130288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1205 GMT 30 Nov*

[Text] The Arab representatives to the United Nations have hosted a luncheon at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York in honor of PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi who is present at the United Nations with Dr Fathi 'Arafat, Yasir 'Arafat's brother, on the occasion of the celebration of the International Day of Solidarity With the Palestinian People. Qaddumi made statements dealing with the future of the settlement and peace in the region.

Qaddumi stressed that the question of recognition of Israel cannot be discussed before the convocation of the international peace conference. He said: This matter will be submitted for discussion during the international conference.

Faruq Qaddumi was replying to questions by the press on how much the PLO is ready to adopt a statement that explicitly recognizes Israel and shuns terrorism. In his reply, he also said the Palestinian people will continue to struggle against Israeli occupation until withdrawal from Palestine.

## PFLP Denies 'Differences' Among Palestinians

*JN3011183688 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] On the occasion of yesterday's call for a general strike in the occupied territories on the 41st anniversary of the UN Palestine partition resolution and on the occasion of the issuance of conflicting statements on the call for a strike and for an escalation of confrontations, the PFLP today issued a statement denying the existence of differences among the parties to the Unified Leadership of the Uprising.

The PFLP stressed the unity of all parties to the national Palestinian ranks in the face of the occupation forces in accordance with the results of the emergency PNC session in Algiers.

## PLO Radio Versions of PNC Political Statement

WA0112131488 [Editorial Report] Official PLO radios have broadcast three different versions of the PNC's political statement in which the critical passage endorsing UN Resolutions 242 and 338 varies: 1. Voice of Palestine in Sanaa, North Yemen, on 16 November and Voice of Palestine in Algiers on 17-18 November broadcast a text that appears to conform with international media reporting of what was proclaimed during the PNC session itself. The passage reads: "...in consideration of the fact that the international conference will be held on the basis of the Security Council's two Resolutions 242 and 338 and guaranteeing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among which is the right to self-determination...."

2. The version broadcast by Voice of the PLO in Baghdad on the 15th omitted any reference to the resolutions. The passage reads: "...in consideration of the fact that the international conference will be held on the legitimate basis of the Palestinian people, foremost being the right to self-determination...."

3. On the next day, Voice of the PLO in Baghdad broadcast a version that mentioned the resolutions and added a phrase that seems to strengthen the PNC's acceptance of them. The passage reads: "...in consideration of the fact that the international conference will be held on the basis of the UN Security Council's two Resolutions 242 and 338, for the purpose of implementing them, and the necessity of guaranteeing the legitimate national and political rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among which is the right to self-determination...."

## Correction to 'Arafat on U.S. Visa Denial

The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "'Arafat on Visa Denial" published in the Palestinian Affairs section of the 29 November Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 3:

Column two, paragraph three, only sentence make read: ...Department and who interferes in Shultz' decisions, and behind him is Yitzhaq Shamir in all the U.S. State Department's decisions dealing with the Middle East. [wa yadussu anfahu khlfa Shultz wa min wara'ihim Yitzhaq Shamir fi kulli qararati wizarat al-kharijiyah al-amrikiyah al-muta'aliqqah bil sharq al-awsat]... (rewording for clarity and providing vernacular)

## Egypt

### King Husayn Arrives in Cairo on 'Working Visit'

*JN3011125888 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Cairo—His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Cairo this afternoon from Sanaa on a working visit to Egypt during which he will hold talks with His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak that will deal with current Arab issues and relations between the two fraternal countries.

His Excellency President Mubarak was headed those receiving His Majesty King Husayn upon arrival at Cairo International Airport. His majesty was also received by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Nabih al-Nimr, Jordanian ambassador at Cairo; and a number of senior Egyptian officials.

His Excellency President Mubarak accompanied His Majesty King Husayn to the Al-Qubbah Palace, where his majesty was accorded an official reception, during which the Jordanian and Egyptian national anthems were played. The two leaders reviewed the guard of honor and his majesty the king shook hands with the senior officials.

### Confers With Mubarak

*NC3011133988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Excerpts] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn held a round of talks this afternoon at the Republican Palace in Al-Qubbah. Members of the Egyptian and Jordanian delegations were also present. The meeting lasted more than 1 hour.

The Egyptian delegation includes Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted] The Jordanian delegation includes Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court; and Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo Nabih al-Nimr.

Following the meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that President Mubarak and King Husayn exchanged views on a number of issues of interest to the entire Arab region. He added that King Husayn briefed President Mubarak on the results of his tour of Arab capitals, which was designed to clear the Arab atmosphere, unite Arab ranks, and coordinate stands on Palestinian efforts and the Palestinian issue.

The information minister said that the two leaders also reviewed developments related to the Palestinian issue and assessed world reaction to the PNC resolutions. They also discussed coordination and consultations on future steps to back the Palestinian issue and bring it before world public opinion, and studied the question of the coordination of Arab stands to support the PNC resolutions.

President Mubarak and King Husayn will resume their talks tonight at a closed session, while members of the Egyptian and Jordanian delegations hold a separate meeting.

### Telephones Saddam Husayn

*NC3011185188 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and President Husni Mubarak talked over the telephone with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn during their closed meeting this evening. The telephone conversation falls within the context of the discussions held between the leaders of the three fraternal countries within the past few days.

### Holds Second Meeting

*JN0112070488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] Cairo—His Majesty King Husayn and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak resumed their talks in a bilateral meeting at the Presidential Palace in Cairo last night, during which they held a telephone conversation with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to follow up the talks among the leaders of the three fraternal countries over the past few days. During their meeting, the two leaders discussed efforts to achieve solidarity and unify Arab stands toward the various issues and developments in the region.

The prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and the Jordanian ambassador in Cairo held a round of talks at the Presidential Palace in Cairo last night with the Egyptian prime minister, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the minister of transport, and the director of the president's office for political affairs. They discussed bilateral relations between Jordan and Egypt in addition to reviewing the recommendations of the joint committee and the achievements in this regard. They also reviewed cooperation in the field of trade exchange, the equitable deal between the two countries, and all details concerning the recommendations of the higher committee and their follow-up.

Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi said after the meeting that cooperation between Jordan and Egypt on the Arab and international scenes on all issues, especially the Palestine question and efforts to achieve Arab solidarity, is proceeding very well.

### Remarks to Reporters Cited

*NC0112100088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0902 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan have expressed satisfaction over the outcome of their talks that provide further proof of the cooperation and coordination between Egypt and Jordan for the benefit of the Arab people. This came in remarks to journalists by the two leaders before King Husayn left the Al-Qubbah presidential palace at the end of his visit to Cairo this morning.

King Husayn was asked to give his opinion on the Israeli position, which rejects peace, and on U.S. support for this position. In reply, the king said that he believes the Palestinian issue has drawn worldwide attention following the PNC meeting which passed historic resolutions and was led by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. King Husayn said that justice will prevail, pointing out that the Palestinians have been responsible and have been acclaimed and shown appreciation by most of the world.

King Husayn said: The march will go on until a just and honorable peace is achieved, the Palestinians achieve their rights, and peace and stability is restored to this part of the world. There is an international tendency for that to happen, a tendency to tackle hot regional issues, the king said. He added that this tendency is too strong to be reversed by any country.

President Husni Mubarak was asked about the most important results of the Egyptian-Jordanian summit. He said: There is no need to speak about results, as we meet quite often. At every meeting there are consultations, and these consultations inevitably produce results. It is not so simple and easy to speak about results but suffice it to say, there is cooperation and coordination on the highest level and in the best possible way. He stressed that this cooperation and coordination is in the interest of the whole Arab nation, not just one state.

Asked whether he had sent a letter to U.S. President-elect George Bush, Mubarak said: I have not written to Bush, but I have sent a message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz regarding granting a U.S. entry visa to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Asked whether President Husni Mubarak or King Husayn intend to visit the United States after President-elect George Bush takes office in January, President Mubarak said: I think it is still too early to speak about this subject. Furthermore, such a visit will depend on an invitation's being sent.

In answer to a question about his assessment of the efforts which he had exerted so far to clear the Arab atmosphere and convene an Arab summit, King Husayn said: I am personally very satisfied with the general approach of all the leaders I have met recently. He expressed the belief that every meeting achieves some steps forward.

The Jordanian monarch affirmed in this regard that his meeting in Cairo with President Husni Mubarak represents a step on the way to achieve genuine cooperation in the Arab world.

### King Husayn Leaves for London

*JN0112132788 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Excerpts] Cairo—His Majesty King Husayn left Cairo for London today on a working visit to the United Kingdom during which he will hold talks with British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher and senior British officials. President Husni Mubarak led those who saw off his majesty at Cairo International Airport. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Muhammmad Husni Mubarak held a third meeting at the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah before his majesty's departure from Cairo. At this meeting, his majesty and His Excellency President Mubarak continued their talks, which dealt with the achievement of Arab solidarity, Arab and international situations, and bilateral cooperation.

Meanwhile, His Majesty King Husayn expressed satisfaction with the general Arab orientation toward clearing the Arab atmosphere, which he noticed during with his meetings with a number of Arab leaders during his recent visits to a number of Arab capitals. His majesty answered a question by a JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Cairo on the recent efforts through his majesty's tours to clear the Arab atmosphere. In reply, the king said: I am very satisfied with the general orientation in all Arab capitals and with the stand of all Arab leaders whom I met with on this orientation. His majesty said: It was an opportunity to meet recently with those Arab leaders to clear the atmosphere.

Referring to his meeting with President Mubarak, his majesty said: I believe that any meeting achieves steps forward in the field of genuine and constructive cooperation, which we hope will be satisfactory to coming generations, God willing. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim returned to Amman today after participating in His Majesty King Husayn's talks with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak during his majesty's visit to Sanaa and Cairo. They were received at the airport by the deputy prime minister and minister of education, as well as the minister of state for parliamentary affairs.

## Al-Baz on PLO, 'Premature' Talk on Syria

*NC3011135883 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs, has emphasized that Egypt is exerting utmost efforts to find a way out of the crisis currently obstructing the peace process and a way to deal with the U.S. refusal to grant an entry visa to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Speaking to journalists following a round of talks between President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan, Dr al-Baz said that President Mubarak had sent messages to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and President-elect George Bush over this issue. Al-Baz pointed out that both Egypt's delegate to the United Nations and its ambassador to Washington are following up on the issue of the United State's denying an entry visa to 'Arafat. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, discussed this issue with the U.S. ambassador in Cairo, he noted.

Dr al-Baz added: We cannot determine yet whether the U.S. position will remain the same or whether it will be reconsidered. However, we are now sensing an inclination toward an agreement to hold a special session on the Palestinian issue at the UN European headquarters in Geneva on 13 or 14 December. He added: It seems that the United States will go along with that proposal.

Dr al-Baz stressed that the Palestinian issue will take precedence during President Mubarak's current talks in Cairo with King Husayn, stressing that it has become apparent that Egypt will take part in any coming Arab summit.

Asked whether the Jordanian king's talks with President Mubarak will touch on the recent reports on attempts to bring about a rapproachement between Egypt and Syria, Dr al-Baz said that this issue is premature. He added: His Majesty King Husayn talked about this issue with some Arab leaders, but I do not expect anything to materialize in the near future.

## Sidqi Delivers Government Policy Statement

*NC2611150788 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1008 GMT 26 Nov 88*

[Government policy statement delivered by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi at the People's Assembly Hall in Cairo—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr Speaker of the People's Assembly, brothers and sisters, members of the respected People's Assembly: Season's greetings to you. I wish you a successful term, God willing. My best regards and deep appreciation to you, and my wishes of success in your legislative tasks, in your follow-up duties, and in your continued cooperation with the government, a mission which your respected Assembly has been accomplishing to perfection for years.

I have had the honor to present the government's strategy, policies, and programs aimed at achieving economic and social development and at cementing the underpinnings of political freedom in three previous statements. One of these I read before the previous People's Assembly on 29 December 1986. The other two I read before your respected council on 6 June and 16 November 1987.

I would like to assure your excellencies that the contents of these three policy statements, together with the responses provided by the Assembly's special committees which studied these statements, as well as the Assembly's discussions, still constitute the general framework of the government's policies.

Today I will speak to you about the government's accomplishments in the year 1987-8 concerning social and economic reforms. I will also present plans for the government's future work, which have been drawn in accordance with the instructions of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and of your respected Assembly.

In preparing its programs, the government has kept in mind the general public call for realistic social and economic reforms, as well as the general national objectives outlined by his excellency the president.

Our policies, which are inspired by the constitution, have four components:

The first component is wide-ranging democracy, which ensures the freedom of thought and opinion for every individual, irrespective of ideology or partisan affiliation. It also safeguards the right to objective opposition and constructive criticism. It encourages cooperation between the government and the constitutional institutions, chief of which is your respected Assembly. This government believes in democracy and has outlined its policies in this respect in the statements which I delivered in December 1986, June 1987, and November 1987. It is my pleasure to renew this commitment today.

The second component is economic development based on long- and medium-term planning, the goal of which is to increase national income, enhance the standard of living, and eliminate structural imbalances in the national economy. The only way to achieve development is to increase production and improve quality. This issue has been among the government's top priorities. I will go over it in further detail in the first section of this statement.

The third component is development and social justice. These are needed to increase productive output as well as to ensure a continued rise in the standard of living of the

low-income classes. The head of state and the government view such development as a safety and stability valve in the overall development process on the grounds that any economic system which lacks social justice is bound to fail. It is my honor, in the second part of this statement, to review the government's achievements and programs in this respect:

The fourth and final component is foreign policy. It is a foreign policy which places Egypt's interests ahead of everything and above all considerations, and enhances ties of friendship and cooperation with all countries that reciprocate this desire and adhere to the freedom of our will and independence of our decisionmaking. This foreign policy also provides for favorable conditions to support the development efforts. The third part of this statement tackles this policy in detail. Allow me, after this brief review of the government's thinking, which has been presented to you in detail on more than one occasion in previous statements, to start with the first part of the statement.

As I have mentioned, the first part deals with the government's achievements and programs in connection with increasing output. Development in Egypt since the start of President Mubarak Husni Mubarak's term of office has depended on long-term planning, extending to the beginning of the 21st century, to deal with Egypt's problems with comprehensive, radical, and long-term solutions. The 1982-87 5-year plan was the first link of this long-term plan. It was the first 5-year plan whose design and execution had been completed since the 1959-64 plan.

The current 1988-92 5-year plan constitutes the second link of the long-term plan. If the prime objective of the development plan is to raise the living standard of Egypt's citizens, then the increase in the output of commodities and services naturally constitutes this plan's means and essential goal. In the government's view, an increase in output rests on three pillars: investment, increased productivity, and development of the local, urban, and desert societies. Investments must be provided in a steadily growing rate in order to render them fruitful. This requires the mobilization of the financing capabilities of both public and private sectors to provide investment's constituent parts, including equipment, instruments, transportation means, and other necessities.

Increased output also requires the full exploitation of production energies, the continued training of labor, and the application of suitable solutions to all the impediments to production. In addition, development activity in the municipalities is considered one of the basic axes of increased production.

Praise be to God, there were tangible achievements in all these fields in 1987-88, which I will now disclose to you.

In the field of the development of municipalities and the establishment of new urban communities, a domain which primarily concerns Egypt's villages and the establishment of new urban communities, we all know that Egypt's villages are the home to approximately 56 percent of our country's population. The villages also house the majority of workers in the agricultural sphere and its related fields of industry and services. From this perspective it becomes clear that a fundamental prerequisite for progress and for increasing production is represented in the development of the village. Similarly, the establishment and development of new urban societies is considered vital for the expansion of arable land and the availability of the land needed for industrial and urban requirements.

The areas of reconstruction outside the Nile valley are situated in the unpopulated regions of Sinai, Al-Wadi al-Jadid, the Red Sea coast, the northwestern coast, the shores of the High Dam Lake, and the vicinity of Greater Cairo. They also could be found in the new cities erected in the desert along the new development axis, which include completing the construction of 6 cities: 10 Ramadan, 15 May, 6 October, Al-Sadat, Al-'Amiriyah, and Al-Salihiyah. New cities also will be built in Upper Egypt on the eastern bank of the Nile in Bany Suwayf, Al-Minya, Sawhaj, and Aswan, in addition to the new city of Damietta.

Local development programs depend on four pillars: upgrading infrastructure projects, without which there could be no development; increasing arable land; increasing productivity, particularly the feddan yields; and strengthening the citizen's role as an effective partner alongside the government in raising the volume of productive investments in the municipalities.

Regarding infrastructure, the government pays particular attention to continuing the implementation of the programs linking the governorates by a strong network of highways, in addition to the minor roads linking the cities and villages within each governorate, so as to facilitate the flow of commodities from the producer to the consumer. As part of a comprehensive plan for the year 1987-88, a network of municipal roads stretching 1,200 km was paved or renovated, 249 km of intercity roads were paved, and 1,563 km of dirt roads were prepared. In addition, 60 flyovers were completed to ease traffic congestions.

In the electricity field, the electric networks of some 500 villages were augmented; 12 transformer plants were either completed or expanded; the electric networks of some cities were rehabilitated; and approximately 565 km of 66-kilovolt wires and cables for both medium and low voltages were extended. The year 1987-88 again witnessed an expansion of the scope of basic services provided to the citizens. In this respect, the output of potable water in the governorates was increased from 3.3

to 3.5 million cubic meters a day, thanks to the installation of 55 water-filtering units which improved water pressure, as well as the introduction of water supplies to new areas in some governorates, particularly in the Al-Buhayrah Governorate.

During the year 1987-88, work continued to complete 14 sewage projects in cities which did not have such systems before. Work also continued to complete the second stage of the sewage projects in Sawhaj, Qina, Luxor, and Minuf. In addition, existing sewage projects in 18 cities were upgraded.

During 1987-88, 118 km of primary and secondary roads were laid in the new development towns. Primary and secondary drinking water networks extending 125 km were built. Furthermore, 118 km of sewage networks and 670 km of low- and medium-voltage electricity networks also were completed and put into use.

Turning to housing, 12,000 housing units were built in the new cities, and another 98,000 units are under construction, approximately 14,000 of which are in their final stage of construction.

I would like to note that strengthening and enhancing the infrastructure in local communities is regarded as part of a comprehensive program to bolster this infrastructure at the national level so as to avoid any bottlenecks that may confront increased production in all fields. There were major achievements in this sphere during 1987-88, including the addition of new productive capacities in the electricity sector, which brought the volume to around 45 billion kilowatt hours. Some 275 km of railroad lines in Lower Egypt and some parts of the Cairo-Aswan line were repaired. The volume of services provided by Egypt's railways and its overland, river, sea, and air transport sectors increased by an average of 3.8 to 10 percent.

The capacity of telephone lines increased 11.6 percent, from about 1,453,000 lines in 1986-87 to 1,621,000 lines in 1987-88. The channels of axial communications among the governorates increased to 24,400. The number of countries with which Egypt has automatic dialing telephone communication increased from 46 to 65 countries. The quantity of drinking water at the national level increased to 9.3 million cubic meters daily in 1987-88, from only 8.6 million cubic meters the year before.

With regard to the reclamation of land, a policy for horizontal expansion has been drawn up and will be implemented during the 1987-92 development plan. The essence of this policy, which aims to reclaim 750,000 feddans of land, is based on a number of principles. Among these principles is the provision by the state of infrastructure projects to the areas designated for reclamation, while the private sector would carry out the actual reclamation. The local authorities also would reclaim the largest possible area within each governorate. The private sector, with its various groups and organizations, would be encouraged to continue in this sphere. Efforts will be made to avoid involving the state in farming the new land and leaving this to the private sector, to exploit personal incentive to increase production. Efforts also would be made to increase the use of advanced irrigation systems, whether through sprinkling or dripping.

In keeping with this policy, the government implemented several executive measures to determine which areas would be reclaimed. It was decided that the first land to be reclaimed would be that near established agricultural areas and inhabited areas with almost completed infrastructural services. To supply water to these new agricultural zones, several projects were drawn up to develop water resources, including projects to use underground water for irrigation. Some 140 wells have been drilled in Al-Minya, Al-Minufiyah, and Al-Gharbiyah, while 10 wells were drilled in Sinai. The Al-Nubariyah and Al-Zawyah canals have been linked to major drainage channels.

Major infrastructural projects were completed in an area approximating 153,000 feddans in 1987-88. Of this area, the public sector reclaimed 78,000 feddans, while the private sector reclaimed 66,000. I would like to make it clear that the areas referred to as being reclaimed here at least have access to roads and water.

In addition, 81,000 sub-marginal and 67,000 marginal feddans were cultivated in 1987-88. Inundation and soil-washing operations were applied to another 25,000 feddans.

It is worth mentioning that the General Egyptian Authority for Survey, a component of the Ministry of Public Works and Water Resources, has conducted aerial photography of the cultivated areas this year, 1988. On the basis of this survey, the Authority estimated that approximately 7.2 million feddans are currently cultivated. This figure does not include certain areas cultivated in the eastern and western desert governorates. We are currently verifying this very encouraging figure by conventional land surveys.

The government has undertaken and continues to undertake elaborate efforts to enlarge the total agricultural land in Egypt.

Concerning the enhancement of agricultural productivity, the government has given particular attention to the vertical development projects, which aim at increasing agricultural production and income. The agricultural research plan has been linked with the agricultural development plan, a move which has led to increased feddan productivity for most major crops, such as wheat, lentils, sorghum, broad beans, rice, sugar cane, and beet roots.

To preserve agricultural land, irrigation techniques have been maintained and developed, and fertility has been improved, for an area covering 887,000 feddans. Many thousands of plastic green houses have been constructed to grow vegetables and fruit plants by the use of high-quality seeds and drip irrigation. As regards irrigation, several projects have been implemented and open drainage networks have been enlarged and deepened for an area comprising 151,000 feddans. Tiled drainage networks used in an area of 137,000 feddans also were enlarged and deepened. Furthermore, 10 automatic-service stations have been built and completed.

In January 1987 the state announced that, in an attempt to encourage farmers to increase their productions, producers could freely market their agricultural products. The state also announced the cancellation of the compulsory marketing shares on all but three items: cotton, sugar cane, and half of the rice yield.

As for animal production, the government has paid attention to improving cattle farms. Breeders delivered some 80,000 heads of cattle during the 1986-87 season. In addition, medical care, medicine, and various vaccines have been provided for anyone requesting such services. Despite the difficulties facing the poultry industry, public sector companies in the year 1987-88 have produced 440 million breeding eggs, 188 million table eggs, 130 million chicks, and 31 million older age chickens. The government also instituted the [word indistinct] duck project, in addition to other projects.

I have admitted that problems exist. These problems can be examined and explained to you in detail when this statement is discussed. We are open to any request by the esteemed Assembly.

Public sector companies also have produced and provided the fodder needed by the private sector, governorates, and state-run firms. In this respect 53,000 tons of lentils have been produced, 52,000 tons of (?concentrates) have been distributed, and 107,000 tons of local soybean seeds have been processed to produce fodder and oil.

As regards the fisheries, the government has worked to expand fish farms to 10,600 feddans and to increase the output of fish hatchers to 282 million units. The government also distributed young fish to rice farmers free of charge in an area covering 445,000 feddans in the year 1987-88. As you all are aware, the first phase of the largest fish farm in the Middle East or, rather, in the whole world, was inaugurated this November. The output of this phase amounts to approximately 100 tons of fish, and the marketing of its production has begun at the rate of 2-3 tons a day to ensure a continued supply of the commodity.

As far as public participation is concerned, the government is fully convinced—and I believe that you share this conviction with us—that the public's active and continued participation in local development is a fundamental guarantee for the success of this development. This participation should not be limited solely to the phase of implementing development projects, but, rather, should also cover the stages of study, planning, decisionmaking, and evaluation of the results.

Local administration in Egypt has made great strides in involving the people in running their own affairs and interests through their elected representatives in every local unit and in their popular councils, which, according to the latest count, number 1,329 councils.

The government also pays great attention to giving small producers the necessary protection through departments that offer them loans and other various needs, provide trained manpower in accordance with the actual requirements of the governorates, and help market products.

On the other hand, the government encourages a further expansion in the establishment of cooperative societies, which are considered producing units that play a main role in implementing the development plans on the local level.

The year 1987-88 has witnessed great cooperation and integration between the government departments and the cooperative societies, in addition to efforts and initiatives by the local inhabitants, with the investment of over 1.1 billion [Egyptian] pounds, which has been used to finance production, services, and social projects. Government funds and foreign grants and aid participated in the financing of these projects to the tune of 207 million pounds. Loans for modest housing projects totalled 232 million pounds. Furthermore, there were personal and popular initiatives represented by the establishment of projects worth 116 million pounds.

The other factor with regard to increasing production deals with improving the performance of the public sector. I explained this subject in detail before your distinguished Assembly on 16 November 1987, when I reviewed government policy on how to benefit maximally from the public sector's productive potential.

The government's stand on this subject can be summed up as follows: developing and modernizing the administrative and marketing systems of the economic units; giving management more freedom in making decisions; implementing investment programs aimed at replacing, renovating, rehabilitating, and preserving existing production structures; creating new production potentials; reforming the financial structures of the public companies and solving their cash flow problems; eliminating or at least reducing the phenomenon of idle resources; and improving the conditions of raw material companies.

As a result of this program, which I had been honored to present to you before, several achievements were recorded in 1987-88, the most important indicators of which are the following:

The public sector made investments totaling 7.7 billion pounds, 133 percent of the volume projected in the 1987-88 plan. The volume of investments carried out for the purpose of completing projects under construction amounted to 4.2 billion pounds, or 54.7 percent of the total investments. As a result, a number of these projects started production. In addition, 1.3 billion pounds worth of investments, that is 17.4 percent of the total, were spent on replacement and renovation projects to maintain the output of the economic units and institutions. As for the remaining investments, which amount to 2.2 billion pounds and represent 27.9 percent of the total investments, they were directed toward new projects.

Another indicator and sign of these achievements is the contribution made to provide the public sector with liquidity following the settlement of 91 million pounds worth of outstanding debts which companies and institutions owed each other. The Ministry of Finance, along with some public sector companies, conducted the necessary studies and research to streamline these companies' finances and propose the suitable reforms, so that the shortages in liquidity would not impede the implementation of the productive programs or the increase in productivity.

Another positive indicator is the increase in the industrial public sector's productivity, from 9.5 billion pounds in 1986-87 to 11.3 billion in 1987-88, a rise of 19 percent. The public sector's activity in the fields of building and reconstruciton, petroleum, and electricity also increased in these 2 years by 8.7 percent, 4.3 percent, and 7.4 percent, respectively.

Among the positive signs is the drop in the number of industrial companies recording losses, from 23 on 30 June 1987, to 17 on 30 June 1988. There also are eight companies that have starated to make profits for the first time in the year 1987-88.

In October 1988, the president decided to set up a committee, as part of a comprehensive plan to upgrade Egypt's industrial public sector, to look into ways to free industrial public sector companies of their losses, particularly because these companies have played, and still play, an important role in stabilizing prices. The committee already has started its work and we hope its recommendations will be put into effect soon, God willing.

Another positive sign is that the current transactions of 12 nonindustrial companies have shown profits in 1987-88, reversing the losses they registered in 1986-87. These firms work in ginning and exporting of cotton, building and construction, electricity, hotels, milling, refrigeration, and external trade.

Improvement also was registered with regard to the public sector's total exports, which rose to approxiamtely $2,916,000,000 in 1987-88, which is 47.2 percent higher than in 1986-87. And, please note that I am quoting dollar figures.

In addition, current transactions have shown a surplus in most of the public sector companies in 1987-88 as compared to 1986-87. The surplus in current transactions has climbed by 10 percent for industrial firms, by 360 percent for hotels and tourist projects, by 57 percent for rice hulling and bleaching industries, by 36 percent for external trade firms, by 24 percent for insurance companies, and by 24 percent for housing projects.

It is worth noting that the public sector could have shown even higher profits except that a limited number of its companies have continued to post losses. Another number posted losses instead of profits in the previous year. Intensive studies are currently being undertaken to reorganize these companies. We can give you more details on this point when your respected Assembly begins debating the policy staement. The government will appreciate your advice on how to correct this situation. However, we already are moving on the right track and, thanks to God, have achieved great success in this field.

The third area in which the government aims to incrase production and productivity is the private sector. The government aims to encourage private investment to supplement and support the development plan.

As a general rule, investment must be increased significantly before production increases are recorded. Investment, and this is a fact, cannot be substantially increased by relying on public investment alone. The private sector should participate side by side with the government in financing investment and production.

Therefore, since the mid-seventies, the state has embarked on a new phase of development, different in its organizational framework from previous phases. Its aim is to enable the private sector to occupy a prominent position in the structure of the Egyptian economy, side-by-side with the public sector.

Fortunately for the Egyptian private sector, and to attract Arab and foreign investments to participate in the development efforts, the state has issued much legislation giving many privileges and facilities to the national, Arab, and foreign investors to encourage them to enter the various investment fields. As we all know, the law on the investment of Arab and foreign funds No. 43 for the year 1984 is at the top of the list of this legislation. This law has subsequently been amended, especially by Law No 32 for the year 1987. Moreover, there is another set of laws that has been issued in the various fields to serve this purpose.

To stimulate the role of the private sector and increase its investments in the production fields, the government has prepared lists, updated annually, of the activities and projects available to the private sector. Being compatible with the priorities of the plan in the various agricultural,

industrial, tourism, and housing spheres, these lists are distributed to investors inside and outside Egypt and at conferences and seminars held for Arab and foreign investors.

Initial feasibility plans have been prepared for some of these projects to make it easier for the investors to get acquainted with these projects and to select those that suit them.

On the other hand, the government has constantly been working to simplify and cut short procedures to make things easy for the investors. We know that there are complaints. Therefore, we are revising the laws on private sector investments to benefit the investors and eliminate their complaints, whether in regard to the complexity and multiplicity of the procedures or in regard to the variations in privileges, and unifying them if this is required. In general, these issues will be submitted to your distinguished Assembly within 1 or 2 months.

The year 1987-8 witnessed a desire on the part of Egyptian, Arab, and foreign investors to invest in Egypt. The General Investment Authority has approved 63 projects within the country, with capital estimated at 700 million pounds raised by 50 shareholding companies. The number of projects that have begun production under this law, namely, Law No 43, reached 851 projects by 30 June 1988, with capital estimated at 4.1 billion pounds.

During the same year, 1987-8, the Companies Authority approved the establishment of 289 companies, with capital of 164 million pounds. These include 189 shareholding companies and 100 limited liability companies.

The number of companies which have been approved since the issuance of Law No 159 of 1981 until 30 June 1988 has reached 1,244 companies, with a total capital of 964 million pounds. The General Industrialization Organization also issued 1,091 permits in 1987-8 for the establishment of new projects or for the expansion of existing projects, at an investment cost of more than 2.2 billion pounds. These include 395 permits at a cost of 1.6 billion pounds in the new cities, and 696 permits at a cost of 600 million pounds in the traditional private industrial secator.

The results of the implementation of the 1987-8 plan indicate that the private sector has made a major contribution to the process of economic and social development in the fields of investment, production, employment, transportation, credit, and foreign trade.

During 1987-8, the private sector carried out investments totalling 2.926 billion pounds, or 104 percent of the target. This is equal to 27.5 percent of the total investments carried out in 1987-8. The private sector contributed to the achievement of 54 percent of the total production in 1987-8, compared to 45.6 percent in 1981-2. The contribution of the private sector was extremely high in production from the agricultural sector at 96.1 percent; the tourism and hotel sector, 85.6 percent; property ownership sector, 72 percent; trade and finance sector, 71 percent; industrial sector, 49.6 percent; and construction and building sector, 48.5 percent.

Furthermore, the private sector contributed to the achievement of 57.4 percent of the total local output in 1987-8, compared to 47.5 percent in 1981-2; 65.2 percent of the output of the commodity sectors, agriculture and industry; 58.6 percent of the output of the productive services sectors; and 33.6 percent of the output of the social services sectors.

Moreover, the private sector provided about 232,000 jobs during 1987-8, equal to 75 percent of the total number of new jobs in the same year.

The sector of joint banks operating under the investment law and the banks which were established by special laws constitutes an important component of the banking system. The financial position of these banks represents 45 percent of the total financial position of the entire banking system as of 30 June 1988. The deposits of these banks represent 41.5 percent of the total deposit balances. The credit facilities they offer to the national economy units represent 41.1 percent of the total credit facilities which were provided by 30 June 1988. On 30 June 1987, these percentages were 43.7, 40.3, and 39.1 respectively.

Moreover, the private sector's total exports amounted to $357,600,000 in 1987-8, registering a 26.3 percent increase over the previous year.

It is worth noting that the share of the private sector in total exports reached 11 percent in 1987-8. The corresponding figure for the preceding year was a mere 5.6.

The government spares no effort to provide the suitable environment for the growth and modernization of the private sector, to increase its share in the process of social and economic development, and to enable it to achieve its full role in all industries, from the large-scale manufacturing projects to the smallest handicraft workshops.

The government has undertaken to simplify all the regulations concerning the private sector activities. Laws affecting the private sector are being amended. The Invstment Authority is being reorganized. All obstacles which still face investors in any areas are being removed. This is true, for example, in the case of chicken producers, where problems related to feed mix shortages, finances, and accumulated debts were reported. The government is working closely with the competent authorities, in particular the Agriculture Ministry and the bank, to resolve these problems.

As for the investment companies, I wish to recall that the government, since the first cabinet formation in November 1986, has sensed that some of these companies were not following proper business methods. This has been stated clearly in all government policy statements since that time.

In the statement of 29 December 1986, I told your respected Assembly that the government is not opposed to these companies on the condition that they adopt proper legal procedures which safeguard the funds of the depositors.

In my statement to you on 6 June 1987, I repeated what I had said before and called for these companies to develop themselves in a way that would make them become part of the national economy like the banks and insurance companies, particularly since their work is not much different from these companies.

When the situation with some of these companies reached the danger level last winter, the government decided to intervene, and took full responsibility in declaring this explicitly before you in its statement on 16 November 1987. In this statement, the government said it would submit to this dignified Assembly new legislation organizing the activity of these companies to safeguard the capital of the citizens. In fact, the government drafted this law which was presented to this dignified Assembly and actually enacted under Law No 146 for the year 1988. This law aimed to safeguard the rights of the investors by organizing the deposits made with these companies and by applying the provisions of the law governing the joint stock companies to these capital investment companies.

This law would ensure sound management of these companies; allow for genuine general meetings to be held, attended by the investors; and name the fields of investment that these comapnies could work in. The fact is that all the productive projects were open to these companies, without any restrictions. Not a single field of activity was denied to these companies in the law enacted by your Assembly in June. The law also stipulated a specific timetable so that we could move from the transitional period to the stage of work and stability.

On more than one occasion, I personally welcomed whoever would show readiness to adjust his affairs, and we still do. According to the latest statistics I received yesterday afternoon, 31 companies requested an adjustment in their status in accordance with the provisions of the law, although some of these companies have failed as yet to submit their certified financial standings, as stipulated by the law. The government hopes, and I repeat, the government hopes the officials in charge of the capital investment companies will respond to the state's attempts to safeguard the depositors' rights. In the meantime, I repeat that the government will not hesitate to pursue the funds and property of the unserious companies both at home and abroad, so that the investors might enjoy their rights in full, God willing.

There are contacts under way in this respect, but it is not easy. The first indication, and this is not part of the text, that came to our knowledge when the law was first applied, in terms of dates and so forth, was that most of those working in this field are unknown to the state, the government, the People's Assembly, or to anyone else. Their activity was conducted under the table. It was very serious, and I repeat my call to them to show discipline to protect the funds of the citizens. I also repeat before you that the government will not hesitate, will not fail to live up to, will not deviate from the path stipulated by the law to protect the rights of the depositors.

I have full statistics on the situation, but this is not the time for their discussion. However, during the esteemed Assembly's discussion of the statement, we can review the situation with you, and we hope that it will be much better than the situation represented in the papers lying in front of me right now. There are companies which have begun to adjust their conditions and have submitted sound information. We welcome such moves, we welcome them. We are not against anyone but are for one thing; that is, the protection of the money of the depositors or citizens who deal with these companies. Just as we protect the holders of insurance policies from the insurance companies, we also protect the depositors and those dealing with these companies. We will never slacken our performance of this duty.

The fourth area regarding increased output which I wish to set forth deals with foreign currency. Productive bodies need foreign currency to finance imports of new machinery and equipment, as well as production requirements and spare parts and so forth. The lack of this currency imposes restrictions on development, whether on the size of investments or on increased production. Therefore, foremost of the government's concerns is to maximize and stabilize our current revenues from foreign currency. Indeed, great accomplishments have been made in this respect, a thousand thanks to God. Current revenues, including the remittances from workers abroad and other remittances as I will detail now, rose to about $11.3 billion in the year 1987-8, a $1.6 billion increase and a 17 percent increase over the preceding year. This has covered all the sources of the main current revenues, including tourism revenues, remittances from those working abroad, and levies on passage through the Suez Canal.

The latest stage has witnessed non-conventional means of reviving commodity exports, especially industrial and agricultural items; the holding of joint seminars, particularly joint seminars with international bodies and agencies concerned with exports; the staging of the first Egyptian exhibition on Egyptian export oriented production in November 1987; and the participation in approximately 20 international exhibitions to display

Egyptian products abroad. The government has also adopted the method of establishing commodity councils, which determine the export objectives of each commodity.

Furthermore, the government has facilitated export procedures, reduced to a minimum the list of items banned from export, and allowed easy terms in settling payments for exports. The effect of this has been reflected in the increase of the volume of commodity exports to $3.3 billion in the year 1987-8, a $1 billion increase over the previous year, which represents a 43.5 percent increase.

Oil exports contributed approximately $650 million to this increase, while the share of agricultural and industrial products was about $350 million.

In tourism, better marketing techniques have been used abroad. Stability and security in this country allowed group tourism from the United States, Europe, and Japan to increase. There have been about 2,280 chartered and non-scheduled flights, bringing more tourists from Arab countries and Europe.

The equal trade agreement was introduced for the first time in tourism, and with success. The number of tourists visiting Egypt in 1987-8 reached approximately 1.9 million, which is 27.26 percent higher than that of the previous year. Tourists spent a total of 15.7 million nights in Egypt, an increase of 33.7 percent. Revenues climbed to $848 million in 1987-8, an increase of 133 percent over the previous year.

It is worth mentioning that the revenues from agriculture and industrial exports and tourism constitute about 23 percent of the total current revenues and transfers for 1987-8. The corresponding share for the previous year was a mere 18 percent. The increase is significant, because these are relatively stable revenues. It denotes the tendency of the national economy to become more reliant on stable sources of foreign currency, which is particularly beneficial for development.

Among the major achievements of the free market in foreign exchange is that it afforded a total of $4.5 billion to the banking system since its inception and up to October 1988. The figure for 1987-8 alone is a record $3.1 billion.

The transfer of money by Egyptian workers abroad which took place within the framework of this market in 1987-8 increased to $1.5 billion, compared to less than $500 million in 1986-7. This is in addition to the remittances in kind which totalled $2 billion in 1987-8.

These figures do not mean that the foreign currency problem has been solved. The bottleneck still exists. Therefore, when we say that the revenues, thank God, have increased, this does not mean that the problem has ended. The problem will remain with us for a long time. However, we are confident that with the efforts toward increased development, tourism, exports, and remittances, and with the continuous development of the banking market, the problem will gradually ease and disappear.

If we move on to the Suez Canal toll fees, we will find that the revenue increased to $1.269 billion in 1987-8, an increase of $120 million or 10.5 percent over the year before. This is despite the fact that the toll fees for 1987-8 were not changed.

While our current revenues of foreign currency in 1987-8 increased by 17 percent over the year before, the increase in payments for imported commodities and other products was limited to 11.8 percent during the same year. This is also positive, and has led to a reduction in the balance of payments deficit to $543 million, compared to $924 million the year before. This means a decrease of 41 percent. The increase in the use of foreign currency is due mainly to the increase in payments over revenues for machines and unfinished goods. These are goods which help to increase and develop production.

His excellency the president issued a decision last October regarding the need to reduce the use of foreign currency in some invisible payments, provided this will not affect development, to provide the necessary financing for the importation of basic commodities for the people. The government is implementing this policy seriously and meticulously.

With regard to foreign loans, I would like to affirm to you what I have already said in previous statements. The government's policy is to limit financing by loans to essential projects, such as infrastructure and support for the commodity production sectors. Negotiations are currently taking place with the World Bank to secure loans to increase agriculture, industrial, and energy production. These loans are estimated at $600 million and will also be used for other projects that bolster the economic structure. What I want to say with regard to loans is that nothing takes place except with the approval of this honorable Assembly.

Negotiations with the IMF have been going on since the May 1987 agreement was signed. The goal of these negotiations is to reach a new agreement on the rescheduling of debts maturing between 1 July 1988 and 1 January 1990, so that we will be able to continue the development efforts without any hindrances.

The negotiations with the IMF, as you know, are very complicated and difficult. However, I wish to assure the brothers and sisters, members of the respected Assembly, that the economic reform program will continue to be shaped by the Egyptian Goverment and will not interfere with the standard of living of the masses of our people. This is a commitment from which the government will not depart. These are the instructions of his excellency the president, which we intend to observe and from which we will not deviate.

Following this review of the most salient achievements of the year 1987-8, let me briefly state the government's program concerning production policies in the year 1988-9.

In the sector of agriculture and land reclamation, the government aims to increase the total output by 3.4 percent. The planned increase is 3.8 percent for agriculture, 1.8 for livestock, and 7.2 percent for fisheries.

The government program calls for the reclamation of approximately 150,000 feddans. Fifty percent of this area is intended to be reclaimed by the private sector, and 50 percent by the public sector. The private sector, it may be noted, will thus be able to increase its share in this activity relative to the previous year.

The government also plans to increase the supply of high-productivity seeds to increase agricultural production. Seed supply centers which are under construction in Tanta and Takha will be completed, and a new one will be built in Al-Minya with a production capacity of 7.5 tons. The government will also build 25 seed-inspection stations in Asyut, Al-Sharqiyah, Al-Dhaqahliyah, and Dumyat. The government will build five machinery advisory service centers and will complete 28 centers which are under construction.

The government also aims at improving the soil and maintaining a total area of 500,000 feddans in various governorates.

The government has plans to improve veterinary services. It will build 50 veterinary units across the country, in addition to 15 vaccination centers and 5 veterinary laboratories.

The government aims to enhance the productive capacity of the chicken-breeding industry by producing 123 million hatching eggs, 111 million small chicks, and 17 million bigger chicks to meet the needs of local growers.

The government plans to increase the number of conventional fish-farms. It intends to build 10 modern fish-farms, to complete the fish-farm in Maryut, and to build a factory for fish food and fishing equipment in Al-Buhayrah.

In the irrigation and drainage sector, the government plans to install tiled drainage systems in an area of 185,000 feddans; enlarge and deepen public and open aqueducts in an area of 150,000 feddans; develop water resources by supplementing Al-Nubariyah, Al-Zawiyah, and Wahbi Canals with water from public drainage systems; and use underground water for irrigation purposes by digging 170 wells in Al-Minya, Al-Munufiyah, Al-Gharbiyah, and Sinai. The government plans to protect Egyptian shores in Rashid, Abu Qir, Port Said, and Damietta, and also to protect the body of the High Dam.

In the industry and mining sector, the government plans to increase industrial production to 24 billion pounds, God willing, an increase of 7.3 percent over the year 1987-8. The goverment's program aims at increasing output by 6.6 percent for food products, 7.9 percent for textiles and ready-made clothes, 7.9 percent for chemical products, 7.8 percent for mineral products, 6.6 percent for engineering products, and 8.4 percent for mining products.

The government also plans to implement investments in the industry sector worth 3.2 billion pounds, representing 27.2 percent of the targeted investments for the year 1988-9. 59.4 percent of these investments totalling 1.9 billion pounds are for the public sector, while 40.6 percent go for the private sector.

In the petroleum sector, crude oil production is targeted to reach 44.3 million tons and natural gas to reach 5.7 million tons, compared with 44.1 million tons and 5 million tons, respectively, for the year 1987-8.

Approximately 22.5 million tons of crude oil will be refined in the coming year to meet local consumption requirements for petroleum products. Naturally, as you know, in the petroleum field especially, the international market greatly influences the decisions pertaining to exploration and production in this country. It is also expected that 20 new oil exploration agreements will be signed in the year 1988-9.

In the electricity sector, power generated from thermal and hydroelectric resources is targeted to increase by 11 billion kilowatt hours, bringing it to 56 kilowatt hours.

Priority will be given to replacement and modernization projects for generating plants, transformers, and power lines, with the aim of preserving these assets.

In the construction and contracting sector, the government plans to increase the value of production to 5.2 billion pounds, an increase of 6.7 percent compared with the year 1987-8. The value of goods produced is expected to reach 2.3 billion pounds, compared with 2.1 million pounds for last year.

The share of the private sector in the production of this field is targeted to increase from 48.5 percent in 1987-8 to 52 percent during the current five-year development plan.

Moreover, the contracting apparatus of the private and public sectors will be strengthened and developed so that their production will reach 256.5 million pounds.

As for the transport and communications sector, it is planned to introduce 42 new switchboards into service to cover all the Republic's cities and towns, to increase the capacity of the existing twelve switchboards to a total of 223,000 lines, and to increase the capacity of the Cairo and Alexandria microwave networks to improve the

linking between the switchboards. The number of cities linked to the automatic dialing network will increase this year to 34, thus bringing the total number of cities serviced by automatic dialing to 190.

A length of 250 km of railway roads will be renovated, and three bridges will be built instead of level crossings in the populous areas in Mit 'Uqbah, Abu Watiyah, and Bulaq al-Dakrur. The railway road between the Red Sea town of Safaga and Qina, with a total length of 230 KM, will be completed, God willing. In addition, another 167 KM of railway lines will be constructed and completed. A number of roads will be linked and upgraded. The most important of these are the Kafr al-Dawwar-Abu al-Matamir, Disuq-Cairo, Al-Isma'iliyah-Cairo, Al-Fayyum-Al-Kuraymat, al-Za'faranah-Asyut, Al-Khankah-Nuwaybi', Tabah-Shaykh Fadl, and Ra's Gharib-al-Minya roads. The two-lane Al-Isma'iliyah-Port Said road will be completed this year. The commercial fleet will be supported by two ships with a total capacity of 11,000 tons, and the second phase of the project to organize navigation in the Gulf of Suez will also be completed.

As for the tourism sector, the 1988-9 plan aims to achieve comprehensive development of this sector by improving the environment and increasing the country's tourism sites through creating new sites to attract tourists and the population. The tourist services standard will be raised in these sites, which number approximately 16, with a view to increasing the number of tourists this year to about 2,4 million. At the same time, attention will be given to Arab tourists, who represent 18.6 percent of the total tourist number. Tourist accommodation capacity will also be increased, especially in new tourist-attraction areas, whether on the northern coasts, on the Red Sea, or in Sinai. Investments in the tourism sector will increase in the 1988-9 plan by 144.3 million pounds: 84.3 million pounds for the public sector and 60 million pounds for the private sector, God willing. This is a review of the accomplishments in the field of increased production and this year's program.

I now move to the second part, which deals with the government's achievements and programs in the field of social development and justice.

As I explained to you in my previous statements, what we mean by social development is to increase the producing working force, raise the skill and ability of the individual to contribute and work, and continually improve his standard of living under social justice.

The individual is the cornerstone in the building of the homeland. The homeland's status, strength, and pride lie in the individual's value, work, and dignity. Under this concept, social development is considered a necessity for achieving progress in the quality of life in our beloved homeland and a basic guarantee for its political stability. Therefore, it occupies a prominent place in the attention of the government, which is implementing an integrated set of programs and policies to achieve the goals of this development.

An important means toward this end is to expand technically and qualitatively the services necessary for the daily life of the citizens and for their productive activity, such as education, culture, health, housing, youth services, religious and social care, and security and justice services. This is in addition to the application of effective policies contributing to achieving social justice. Thank God, concrete achievements in all these fields were achieved last year. I am honored to explain these achievements as follows:

In the field of education, since it was first formed in November 1986, the government has adopted a new strategy to streamline education in all its phases so that universities and schools will play a key role in generating successive generations of scientists and in meeting society's requirements for qualified and trained manpower. This plan had previously been submitted to you and won your attention, discussion, support, and backing.

The current scholastic year represents a great starting point in the march of pre-university education. In basic education, the number of students in the year 1987-8 increased by 9,500 students. The absorption rate for students whose ages require them to have compulsory education rose to 96.1 percent, compared with 95.8 in the previous year. Moreover, the General Authority of School Buildings has been formed in response to the request of your distinguished Assembly.

As for the education curricula, many of them have been streamlined and linked to environment. Automatic transfer to higher classes in the elementary phase has been cancelled as of the scholastic year 1988-9. Preparatory vocational schools and classes have been established for students who finish elementary education and show vocational tendencies.

As for secondary education, the government directed acceptance in a way permitting expansion of technical education. In 1987-88, 916 more industrial education classes were held than during the previous year. There were 53 more agricultural education classes. Those admitted to secondary technical education increased from 287,000 to 330,000 students, an increase of 14.9 percent. The number of students admitted to general secondary education increased from 169,000 to 193,000, an increase of 14.1 percent. The difference appears to be slight, but it has great significance.

In the field of educational development, all textbooks were revised by specialized committees who modernized them. Books imported from abroad which did not conform with the state's educational policy were banned. Audio and visual educational programs were produced

to promote the standard of education in all stages. A plan has been prepared to introduce computers during secondary education. It will be implemented during the current scholastic year. The examination system has been developed to measure the ability to think, compose, and innovate. Technical secondary education has also been developed to keep pace with scientific development and take care of specializations created in the fields of electronic computers and technology of medical and engineering instruments.

In the field of educational development as well, technical secondary education has been developed to keep pace with scientific development, as I have pointed out. In the field of university education, the necessary material and technical resources have been provided to improve the laboratories and workshops of technical colleges. Colleges branches have been provided with scientific computers. Language laboratories have also been set up in the theoretical colleges. The University libraries have been provided with the most up-to-date references.

To guarantee the development of university and higher education curricula on a sound scientific basis, an institute for higher education research and studies has been established to provide a sound scientific basis for the information needed to develop the curricula. Furthermore, new patterns to promote technical education have been set. An example is the establishment of the first higher institute for technology in Banha which will graduate a technological engineer capable of dealing with the means of production and sophisticated industrial equiapment. Studies at this institute began in the 1988-89 school year.

Industrial institutes linked to places of production have also been set up in the aluminium complex in Naj Hammadi, the Portland Cement Company, the Technical Institute for Marine Installations in Bur Fu'ad, the Technical Institute for Irrigation and Survey in Bur Fu'ad, another technical institute for irrigation and survey in Qina, and a computer branch of the technical institute for television.

This is in addition to the introduction of new specializations and the expansion of the required specializations such as the electronics, electronic computers, air-conditioning, and refrigeration.

Among the government's achievements has also been the establishment of a higher institute to train specialized teachers for nursery schools and to prepare appropriate curricula for them. Branches for elementary school education have also been opened in all teacher training colleges at Egyptian universities to turn out highly qualified teachers for employment in the stages of basic education. A branch for tourist guidance has been established at Al-Minya University. Admissions to these institutes and branches began in 1988-89.

In the cultural field, the government has intensified its efforts to promote a national cultural consciousness based on society's spiritual and civilized values to consolidate the desired values, traditions, and behavioral norms to emphasize and bind together the citizens' efforts to improve society. The government has taken care to involve intellectuals of various inclinations and specializations in outlining a cultural policy by the broadest possible discussion of this policy through the media organs and public conferences and also by submitting it for review by a number of major thinkers, literary people, and artists.

In light of this policy, the government implemented comprehensive programs during 1987-88 to supply the citizen with an appropriate measure of varied knowledge and to develop his capacity for artistic and literary appreciation. In addition, it implemented a national program for [word indistinct] culture. Numerous cultural centers were established, Attention has also been given to public culture, children's culture, and similar matters. All these issues were given unlimited attention by the president and the government. The state will continue its efforts in this regard because the child, as we all know and acknowledge, is the primary building block of this society.

Care for the child is indeed care for society. Among the most important achievements in this regard and for the sake of drawing up an integrated framework for the state's policy in caring for childhood and motherhood, a national council for childhood and motherhood was established. The president proclaimed the document of children's rights for the next decade, God willing, when this council began its activities. This announcement was carried by all media organs.

In the sphere of medical services and health care for the citizens, both medical and preventive treatment are principal pivots of the government's program to develop manpower. This is in keeping with the view that raising the level of public health is bound to result in social prosperity and quality production.

Among the most important achievements of 1987-88 in developing and expanding medical services has been the addition of 2,700 public hospital beds. Four new hospitals have been added to the existing public and central hospitals, and 20 new rural health units and 7 new rural hospitals have been established. In addition, 3,800 doctors, 2,100 pharmacists, 800 dentists, and 4,000 nurses have been added to the number of those in 1986-87.

The fact of the matter is that these increases between 1986-87 and 1987-88 are slight but of particular significance when related to the percentages agreed upon as criteria for this service. This means that the percentage of doctors rose from 1.16 percent per 1,000 persons to 1.64 percent. This is a slight percentage increase but is of particular significance. The percentage of dentists per 1,000 citizens rose from 22 percent to around 24 percent;

the percentage of pharmacists rose from 53 percent to around 53 percent [as heard]; the percentage of nurses rose from 1.6 percent to 1.65 percent. As I said, these are slight increases but are of immense significance.

In the field of preventive medicine, the successive national campaigns to innoculate children against the 6 principal diseases—tuberculosis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, and measles—have succeeded. The percentage of children covered reached around 85 percent in 1987-88. International organizations acknowledge this is the highest percentage of coverage in the Middle East and North Africa. Only last week, around one million pregnant women were innoculated against tetanus.

The government has also taken a large number of preventive measures to apply medical controls at points of entry to protect the country from the spread of diseases and from contaminated food. The goverment is also periodically analyzing regional waters to protect the country from the dangers of pollution from nuclear wastes. The government is constantly backing the programs to monitor pollutants of water, air, and the environment. As a result of the government's efforts, actually the state's efforts, to combat diseases and protect the environment from pollution, this year's summer season was completely free of problems, thank God. This has not happened since 1970, despite what has been said here and there. I confirm to you officially that this year's summer season did not have any of the diseases which have been suffered from in the years since 1970.

Meanwhile, the health insurance plan has been expanded. The National Health Insurance Authority's health insurance plan now covers approximately 4 million workers, wage earners, and family members. This is in addition to around 3 million citizens who are covered by private health schemes. The work to establish more treatment centers in various governorates has continued with the aim of making medical fees affordable to the largest number of low-income groups and to make treatment available to the maximum number of individuals.

In the field of the production of medicines, the government is implementing policies aimed at providing basic medicines at reasonable prices, ensuring the effectiveness of these medicines, expanding the provision of medical services, and (?dispensing) with imported medicines. Although the pharmaceutical industry suffered some problems last year, these have been completely overcome, praise be to God, thanks to the debates in this respected Assembly and its directives to the government.

The production of disposable plastic syringes has been expanded to combat epidemic diseases. In addition, blood transfusion centers have been supplied with checking equipment, which is one of the most important reasons why many diseases, which used to spread, have been contained.

To achieve the aims of family planning, the government has provided and is providing the means for this planning in all service outlets and is strengthening the local manufacture of these means. For the first time, 500 doctors have been employed exclusively to work in family planning centers in connection with this program. It is necessary to confront the population problem so that development efforts can bear fruit. This requires full cooperation between state organs and popular efforts. Each one of us also has a big responsibility in helping to tackle this problem. It is a sensitive social problem, about which opinions differ. However, there is no escaping the call to organize the family, or family planning as we call it.

Another issue with regard to which the government's effort is clear is housing. The government believes that hygienic housing is an economic and social necessity and a principal element of a stable and cohesive society. The government's policy of overcoming the housing problem does not end with the construction of a sufficient number of housing units at the appropriate standards to absorb the population increase, nor with the renewal or renovation of units. This policy also takes into account the cost, particularly of economic units, so that the majority of the citizens can afford them.

A technical study was carried out during 1987-88 on reducing the cost of housing units as much as possible so that the largest possible number of units could be built in view of the financial, manpower, and building material resources available to the state. This study prepared models of low-cost housing units that took into account the fulfillment of the necessary needs of the low-income Egyptian family. The area of each unit is between 54 and 90 square meters. A family can improve the interiors of the units according to its financial resources and at the proper time.

In light of this policy, the implementation of a program based on expanding the construction of low-cost housing began in the year 1987-88. The objective of this program is to construct 300,000 housing units annually at a cost not exceeding 10,000 pounds per unit. In the year 1987-88, 173,000 housing units were handed over. Approximately 74 percent of these went to those with low incomes, 23 percent to those with medium incomes, and 3 percent to those with above medium incomes. The private sector has constructed the major part of these units. In addition to these units, the public sector invited tenders for around 240,000 low-cost units. Contracts have been concluded for the construction of 110,000 units. The construction began during 1987-88.

Regarding the youth, the government's policy stems from the Constitution's main principles on good social conduct. The Constitution guarantees the welfare of the new generations and the youth and commits the society to take care of and defend the ethics, establish the noble

Egyptian traditions, and observe the high level of religious education and national values. The Constitution also considers work as a right and duty which the state guarantees.

The state has adhered to these principles in all its activities. What I want to point out in this respect is that the government has been eager to provide the largest possible number of job opportunities annually and to find new fields for the employment of the youth. I will refer to some figures in this regard.

The current 5-year 1987-1992 plan provides for the creation of 2.1 million jobs, at an average rate of more than 400,000 job opportunities annually. Approximately 360,000 job opportunities were actually created in the year 1987-88. They include 74,000 job opportunities in the government and public sector and 232,000 jobs in the private sector. Moreover, the government is seeking to give student graduates ownership of the reclaimed agricultural lands as a practical way of giving hope to youths and opening new horizons to them. Of the univesity and institute graduates who graduated in 1983 and afterwards, 183 were given lands in December 1987, and 5,500 others were given land in November 1988. Each graduate received 5 to 6 feddans of land.

It also is the state's policy to build new cities and communities to attract the youth. Around 62,000 job opportunities have been provided or are expected to be provided in these communities by the end of the current 1988-89 year. The primary goal of our policy in this field is to convert the youth into a society of producers. The Scientific Research Ministry has been charged with carrying out technical and economic feasibility studies of the small production projects serving the interests of the youth society and with supervising the implementation of these projects. It also has been charged with the task of expanding technical education to give the youth technical skills so that they may practice various professions. This will provide the youth with a wide scope for fruitful work.

In the field of information, the government's information policy concentrated on conveying true information to the citizens, spreading national and patriotic culture among them, dealing scientifically with the social diseases, and fighting the habits which are alien to Egyptian society. It also concentrated on enlightening the citizens on the problems of development and on the need to exert more efforts to limit the danger of the continuous increase of the population and to combat illiteracy.

Egypt's information policy at home has worked to consolidate the ties between the citizen and the issues of his Arab and Islamic nation.

With regard to the technical sphere, the ground station for satellites has been commissioned, which has had a great effect on developing the information service. The radio transmission centers in Al-Wahat al-Bahriyah have been installed, while the television transmission centers in Dhahab, Nuwaybi', and Tabah have been installed. Three stations have been installed in each of these places. An emergency station also has been set up in each place. Furthermore, 20 local information offices have been opened and expanded in the governorates. The third stage of the information databank has been completed. The canal local radio was inaugurated last October. The experimental transmission from television's fourth channel, which covers the Canal area and Sinai, and which is considered the first local television transmission station in Egypt, has begun.

As regards the field of justice and security, it is essential for internal stablity to uphold justice. This calls for the material and moral backing of the judicial authority. It also calls for emphasizing this authority's independence and permanent immunity and also for asserting that there must be no dominion, other than the law, over the judges when they issue their verdicts. The simplicity of litigation also is linked with justice.

Therefore, the government has revised, studied, and amended several laws, foremost of which is the law pertaining to the civil and commercial code of procedure and the criminal procedure law. These measures were undertaken to simplify them and make them correspond to the spirit of the age without departing from the provisions of the Islamic shari'a. They will be [words indistinct] at the cabinet and elsewhere preparatory to their submission to their esteemed Assembly.

Furthermore, definite recommendations have been adopted to simplify the administrative work and develop it at the courts, public prosecutor's office, and Land Registry Authority. The object of these recommendations is to surmount the routine impediments and to end the suffering of the citizens.

A higher committee has been formed under the chairmanship of the justice minister's adviser empowered to supervise a review of legislation and procedures pertaining to their implementation. Among the pillars of internal stability are the safeguarding of the security of the homeland and the provision of security for the citizens. The government, therefore, will not be reluctant to find sufficient funds to provide our Armed Forces with all the necessary means and with the most advanced weapons, as well as to enable them to continue building an advanced arms production industry.

With regard to the police, the government supplies policemen with the weapons and other human, technical, and material means which they need to carry out their responsibilities to ensure internal security, confront any violation of the law, and deal firmly with any deviation.

On this occasion, I would like to refer to a serious phenomena—the spread of drugs. The state and all of its departments and services are working to deal with this danger. Efforts will be intensified in this regard. I would

like to note here that the seriousness of this phenomena demands the mobilization of all of the government's and peoples' sincere efforts. The role of the family should be emphasized in this regard.

I take this opportunity to extend sincere greetings to our Armed Forces and security men [applause], wishing them all success in fulfiling their important national tasks.

I will now turn to another subject; namely, social justice. From the premise of adherence to social justice, the government is implementing policies aimed at raising the standard of living of low-income groups and at increasing their real income, whether by increasing their financial earnings or providing privileges, such as free or subsidized services. The government also is seeking to reduce the cost of living by subsidizing the prices of basic commodities and limiting the increase in their prices. Increasing the number of people who benefit from the social insurance system also is connected with social justice.

To improve financial earnings, the state, as part of an integral plan, devoted attention to reforming the wage system. This was launched with a 20 percent increase in wages and salaries, which went into effect in July 1987, and a subsequent 15 percent increase in July 1988. This is in addition to the continued payment of bonuses and incentive allowances. The government also encouraged the payment of incentives to workers in the public sector and the state administration as long as they were linked to increased production.

The president has authorized the government to review the wage system within the framework of the development of job specifications in the government and the public sector to raise standards and increase productivity. As soon as the government completes this review, it will submit comprehensive reform proposals to your honorable Assembly. I hope that this will take place within 1 or 2 months.

Raising the standard of living of individuals was not limited only to improving financial earnings. The state also allocated approximately 4.5 billion pounds in 1987-88, and is allocating approximately 5.2 billion pounds in the 1988-89 budget to provide the citizens with free services in such fields as education, culture, health, and so forth. These expenditures are considered real income to be added to the earnings of every Egyptian family.

The government devotes much attention to the issue of social security against old age, disability, death, sickness, work-related injury, and unemployment. It also provides social welfare to pensioners. The government is exerting tremendous efforts to provide all the people with insurance coverage as one of its basic pillars to achieve social justice. The government, therefore, is eager to see that insurance services reach not only the employees and their families in the civil service and the public and private sectors, and to irregular employees and businessmen, but, also, to the needy classes, such as old people, widows, divorcees, and orphans, who have no guaranteed source of income, as well as small wage earners, so the state can directly assist these groups and guarantee them the basics of life.

Let me give you some figures. The number of insured people rose to 13 million in 1987-88, an increase of 600,000 citizens or around 5 percent from the preceding year. The carrying out of the social insurance services has been further facilitated with the opening of additional outlets at which pensions are payed. There are now approximately 10,000—to be exact, 9,824—such outlets. The system of distributing pension payments in cash to old-aged pensioners in their homes has been expanded.

In the field of social welfare, the government has implemented several social programs, such as the productive families project, which seeks to have family members utilize their spare time in fruitful work and to exploit local raw materials. This project is growing steadily. To enable the low-income class to deal with the cost of living, the government has fixed popular prices on a large number of basic commodities and services. The general budget will bear the difference between these prices and the market prices.

The subsidy allocated for this purpose in the year 1987-88 reached 1.7 billion pounds, and rose to 1.8 billion pounds in the 1988-89 budget. The subsidy allocated for the supply of food commodities reached 675 million pounds. The subsidy for agricultural production requirements reached 372 million pounds. The subsidy for easy loans, which are primarily given to building and land reclamation cooperatives, reached 506 million pounds. This is in addition to the subsidization of some other services and commodities, such as passenger transport, popular clothing materials, some medicines and children's milk, which reached 260 million pounds.

Furthermore, the government has sought and is seeking to limit the rise in prices by providing basic commodities to achieve a balance between supply and demand. Some of the measures which have been taken in this regard are: allocating suitable quotas of goods to the governorates that would be consistent with the governments' mode of consumption; concluding contracts directly with the producers associations at the production sites and with the exporters abroad to export the necessary commodities; continuing to plant an area of 2,000 feddans of land annually throughout the year at the expense of the Supply Ministry for the production of 60,000 tons of bread to be offered at the ministry's main distribution outlets in Greater Cairo; continuing to expand the grain storage capacity; and encouraging the establishment of automatic and semi-automatic bakeries and spreading them throughout the governorates and population centers.

To reduce the marketing cost, the Agriculture Ministry has modernized the methods of marketing some agricultural products, especially vegetables and fruits. Suitable containers that will preserve the products have been used. Experiments have begun in storing these products in refrigerators for a long period. Many such experiments have proved very successful. It is true that a great deal remains to be done in this respect so as to reduce the marketing cycles [halaqat]. This primarily involves the establishment of organizations or societies embracing the producers of the various agricultural commodities that will undertake to market and distribute these commodities without intermediaries. The labor trade unions can contribute to the establishment of these societies.

Meanwhile, the government continues to apply the financial, monetary, and credit policies that are designed to rationalize the public expenditure, promote the resources, and gradually reduce the rate of monetary expansion. The aim behind all this is to alleviate the inflationary pressures to which the national economy is being subjected.

It is worth noting that the money in circulation increased by 5.6 percent during 1987-88, as compared to increases of 11 percent during the previous years. In 1980-81, the increase was 40 to 42 percent. Taxation legislation is now being developed, especially with regard to inheritance and real-estate taxes, in a way that will realize the required balance between the considerations of social justice and the encouragement of savings and investment.

These are the achievements. I personally and the government—I believe that I represent all the sectors in this regard—are proud of the achievements. There is no doubt that there are difficulties, there is no doubt that there are problems; and there is no doubt that there are numerous phenomena that require more efforts. However, I would like to say that we are exerting our utmost efforts and will not hesitate to continue to do so to realize ambitions to which all of us, majority or opposition, aspire.

This year—1988-89—which began on 1 July 1988, the government's program in the various social fields is [word indistinct]. However, I believe, rather, I promised that I would not speak for over 2 hours. Therefore, I shall cut down much in this respect, and leave it to the brother colleagues, the ministers, to give you the details you need either in the People's Assembly or in the Assembly's specialized committees.

We have extensive programs in education, whether preuniversity or higher education. We also have programs in the cultural field. There are many projects under consideration in the health services sector. These include expansion of medical institutions, health insurance, student health insurance—an important project which will be submitted to your honorable assemby—and comprehensive clinics.

There also are extensive programs in the building sector. We have a program involving the construction of 300,000 housing units this year. Some of these will be carried out by the public sector while the others will be carried out by the private sector. There also are projects in the public utilities sector. Sewage projects will be carried out in the big cities and the governorates. There also are projects involving reconstruction, new development towns, social welfare, information, religious services, security services, justice services, and so forth. We have policies and specific programs regarding these fields in 1988-89, which the respective ministers will outline to you.

What I want to point out in this regard is that we have a clear view regarding the future. This clarity of view increases when we hear the discussions of this honorable Assembly. We heard the discussions three times in the past, and we hope to hear them this time with an open heart. We intend to cooperate fully with the Assembly.

I have not finished. With regard to the programs, the government is prepared—and has sufficient flexibility in its thinking and method of implementation—to make changes in order to carry out the directives of the honorable Assembly.

I will now turn to the sphere of foreign policy, which is the last part of the government's statement. Our foreign policy in 1987-88 was distinguished, in all aspects, by its constancy, flexibility, and coordination. These aspects confirm the concept of Egyptian national security and clarify its various dimensions. I have explained these aspects to you in the government's previous statements, but mention them again just to remind you. These are peace based on justice; consolidating the foundations of stability demanded by the economic and social development process; realizing Arab solidarity; strengthening Egypt's position in the Islamic world; bolstering relations with the African states; and working through the nonaligned group to establish more just and stable international relations, facilitate the emergence of a real spirit of peaceful coexistence, and realize mankind's hope in a firm world peace.

During the past year, the state spared no effort to intensify its contacts with regard to the convening of an international conference for peace with the object of achieving a just, durable, and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem. Egypt's initiatives had the most favorable effect in activating the situation. The idea of an international conference is now acceptable to the various international sides and the parties to the dispute, with the exception of Israel. Our diplomacy never ceased to demand that Israel respond to the international unanimity in a practical way and participate in such a conference, which is considered the appropriate method for achieving a just settlement that

guarantees the rights of all parties, foremost the right of the Palestinian people to determine their fate and the rights of all peoples in the region to live in peace and security.

Egypt was among the first of those states which expressed support and backing for the Palestinian state immediately after its proclamation. Egypt's recognition of the establishment of that state is an affirmation and a reflection of the continuation of its constant policy of suporting the Palestinian people in the attainment of their legitimate rights, foremost of which is the establishment of a state on their land.

On this occasion, and on behalf of the government, it pleases me to hail this new state and to hail its struggling, honest leadership. [applause] At the same time, Egypt will not hesitate to condemn the repressive Israeli practices against the Palestinian uprising, which enters its 2d year within a few days' time. This uprising paved the way for the PNC resolution which declared the Palestinian state.

The cease-fire on the Iraq-Iran front was in line with the government's persistent stand and action to implement Security Council Resolution 598. We hope that direct negotiations between those two countries will lead to a peaceful, just, and comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

Egypt's successful and persistent diplomatic and legal efforts had an effect on the International Arbitration Panel's decision that found in Egypt's favor with regard to the dispute with Israel over a number of border markers, and, hence, resulted in the return of Tabah to Egyptian soil. [applause] This underlines the supremacy of the principles of international law, the principle of resolving conflicts through peaceful means, and is a crowning of Egypt's adherence to every inch of its soil and its absolute belief in the sanctity of Egyptian soil.

Egypt's efforts with regard to Arab issues reflect its firm belief that real and effective contributions to the protection of pan-Arab security is, simultaneously, a contribution to the protection of Egypt's national security. Similarly, strengthening the elements of our national security directly strengthens the Arab homeland's security to the same degree.

Clear and prominent evidence of the credibility of our political action is the restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and most Arab countries. In fact, diplomatic relations were restored with fraternal Algeria only a few days ago. [applause] Out of a desire to strengthen these relations, Egypt is continuing its intensive efforts to promtoe the ties of cooperation with these countries. Joint higher committees, which have concluded a number of agreements and joint projects, have been formed with Sudan, Jordan, Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia, the UAE, and the YAR. Such committees are expected to be established with other Arab countries.

Egypt's return to the Arab Developments Funds has started to bear fruit. Dealing also has resumed with the majority of Arab national financing funds. Egypt also has returned to a number of Arab League-affiliated organizations. All of these developments are the fruit of the calm and wise policies of Egyptian diplomacy pursued under President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's leadership.

With regard to Lebanon, Egypt has appealed and continues to appeal to everyone to keep their hands off it. Egypt also calls for an end to all foreign interference in that country's affairs so that the Lebanese can decide their affairs on the basis of their own free will and so that Lebanon can return to the Arab fold, having regained its effective role in the Arab homeland's prosperity and in achieving peace in the entire area.

While Egyptian diplomacy has succeeded in elevating Egypt's bilateral relations with the Islamic countries to the best levels, it also has played a prominent role in the conferences which have been held within the ICO framework, the must recent being last January's ministerial meeting in Amman.

On the African level, the recent period has witnessed much activity on the part of our diplomacy, whether in providing effective initiatives to deal with the continent's political and economic problems or in promoting bilateral and multilateral fruitful cooperation to realize the common African interest.

The relations between Egypt and the European countries are characterized by a special importance. His excellency the president's visit to some European states last September was a new step on a path with regard to which his excellency's efforts have not ceased. This path has two principal directions: First, the promotion of the peace efforts in the Middle East area, and, second, the mobilization of effective European support for Egypt's efforts to correct its financial and economic course and ease the debt burden.

On the international level, Egypt has supported, as the noblest aim of all the peoples of the world, every more toward the achievement of peace. On the basis of this premise, Egypt has welcomed the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit meetings and the agreements that have been reached regarding the reduction of armaments and the gradual elimination of nuclear weapons. Egypt also welcomes the increased prospects of international detente and of interaction between the two superpowers, the positive effects of which could be reflected in increasing the prospects of peaceful settlements of aggravating regional problems, whether in Asia, Africa, Latin America, or the Middle East, in particular.

With regard to the Egyptians abroad, I would like to affirm that the government is placing at the top of its priorities the intention to care for all Egyptian communities and to bolster the links between them and their

country's causes in order to impel them to support the comprehensive development programs in Egypt and to back its policy at home and abroad.

Mr Speaker of the People's Assembly, brothers and sisters, members of the esteemed Assembly, the accomplishments made over the past 6 years constitute a breakthrough in the sphere of increased commodity production in the agricultural, industrial, and electricity sectors. These accomplishments also enhance the infrastructure in terms of roads, bridges, transport and communications means, sewage, and other basic services, which are closely linked to the increase of production, as well as in the development of social services, which aim to accomplish comprehensive development for the Egyptian society.

These achievements have been possible by virtue of the state's long-term planning, which has been in effect since the year 1982-83 with a view to confronting the problems with a comprehensive view, continuous efforts, and a rejection of stop-gap techniques and partial and temporary solutions, whose effects erode soon afterwards. The continuation of the implementation of the national plan is considered an integral part of the planning process. It is sufficient for me to note here that, since 1982-83 to the present, 25 quarterly reports have been issued regarding matters related to finance and services. This asserts the government's eagerness to seriously follow up the national economic activity and to solve problems that appear during the implementation process one by one.

Although we have covered a long portion on the road of political, social, and economic reforms, praise be to God, brothers and sisters, I do not believe that you disagree with me and with the government when I say that we still have a long way to go to alleviate the suffering of the masses in various domains. The citizens continue to justly complain about the shortcomings. While working according to a spirit of team work, the government pledges to continue to do its utmost to confront all [words indistinct] and to employ all available potentials to raise the peoples' living standard, in cooperation with, and under the supervision of, your esteemed Assembly, so that we may execute this task, for which we all pledged to be responsible with sincerity, integrity, and honor.

At the close of my speech, I reaffirm my happiness over my accomplishments, my pleasure over this meeting, and reassured about the current steps, and confident about a new phase, in which we, together, will pursue construction and add to previous accomplishments in order to elevate Egypt and its rennaissance under the leadership of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. May God grant us all success in our service to precious Egypt. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [applause]

## Libya

### JANA on 'Verdict of History' on Reagan Term

*LD2311212388 Tripoli JANA in English 1743 GMT 23 Nov 88*

[Text] Tripoli, 23 November (JANA)—REUTER has said that the head of the US Administration, Reagan, said while laying down the cornerstone of a library of the documents and records of the period he has been in office that they have done their best alleging that history will remember the eight years he has been in the Black House.

Commenting of the above, JANA's international affairs editor says that the verdict of history on these 8 years will in no way be different from that of the peoples. They curse Reagan and his administration worldwide burning his pictures and effigy, apart from attacking the US presence in expression of their indignation over the US hostile policy in Nicaragua, Panama, South Korea, the Philippines, Europe, Lebanon, Palestine, all the Arab region, central and southern Africa...all these peoples have suffered from US vile schemes and plots perpetrated by Reagan's administration.

These peoples, while he was in office, has faced the US war machinery and the bombing by US F111 aircraft of the Libyan Arab cities, not to mention the invasion of Grenada, the bombardment of the Lebanese towns and cities by US warships, the mining of the seaports of Grenada, the siege laid to Panama, the policy of hegemony on Western Europe, the perpetuation of the Zionist presence in the heart of the Arab homeland supplying this entity with the most sophisticated and devastating strategic and nuclear weapons, apart from launching spy satellites in the air spaces of the Arab homeland.

The editor adds that Reagan is in the eyes of peoples worldwide no more than a child-killer and a war criminal who has set the potential of the US to kill the freedoms of other peoples including the American people. During his tenure of office, the US people has suffered from poverty and homelessness, apart from unemployment reaching the highest records, while the monopolist companies have been amassing great profits robbing the labourers of their efforts and keeping them underpaid.

The editor has pointed out that world [words indistinct] that has brought this mad man to power in the US tries not to beautify his image in that what he has done in terms of services to the Zionists has surpassed all those done by his predecessors.

The editor concludes by asserting that the world today curses Hitler and Nazism. It now pursues the Nazis bringing them to trial. This world now also curses Reagan and will pursue anyone connected with his era in that the crimes they have committed against humanity have surpassed those done by the Nazis in their enormity and ugliness.

This foolish killer doesn't in fact represent the civilized people. He, in fact, represents a primitive mind that stands against the mind of civilized people everywhere.

## Sudan

### PLO Office To Become Palestinian Embassy

*EA0112101288 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Khartoum yesterday after a short visit during which he met Mr Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the State Council, and Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

'Arafat briefed them on decisions made by the Palestine National Council at its recent session in Algeria; namely, the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state and the Palestinian-Arab joint action in the coming period, particularly after the U.S. decision not to grant him an entry visa to address the UN General Assembly. He pointed out that 148 states in the General Assembly had voted against the U.S. decision, with the exception of Israel, which sided with the United States. 'Arafat said Al-Mirghani reassured him of the firm Sudanese firm stand on the Palestinian question.

It is worth mentioning that Mr Abu Rajai, PLO representative in Khartoum, announced it had been decided as of yesterday to transform the PLO office in Sudan into a Palestinian Embassy in Sudan.

### Anya Nya II Accepts 'Peace Initiative'

*EA3011180688 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1400 GMT 29 Nov 88*

[Commentary by Lieutenant Muhammad Chuol, Anya Nya II Political Bureau member]

[Text] God be for us and service to our country. Dear fellow Sudanese, thanks to the mission of Mawlana [our lord] 'Uthman al-Mirghani, in his initiative to (?approach) for peace, on behalf of Anya Nya II Power Brigade, at Dulayb, Power Brigade at (Tun), Power Brigade at Mayom, Power Brigade at Bentiu, I am going to tell those who doubt about the position of Anya Nya II on this peace initiative.

On behalf of my colleagues in the Anya Nya II political office and various commanders in different battalions, we have agreed fully to accept the peace initiative. Thank God, we started this peace initiative in October 1984 in Waat. That formal statement we made of signing a cease-fire without condition until this Ahmar we are here in this radio we will accept it without condition [sentence as heard]. And we pray to Almighty God the side of SPLA will accept the decision.

The war has left us with orphans, with widows, and loss of property. Dear countrymen it is our duty at home, abroad and in foreign countries that we must forget our personal interests and unite all our ranks together with the leadership of the country to bring this peace as meaningful to our mothers, fathers, children, and daughters.

In regard to our objective as a movement, as a part of the Sudanese society, we have the following objectives, which are known to whoever reads newspapers and whoever contacts our members or political office in Khartoum and abroad: That in Anya Nya II we stand for the federal system in the Sudan and a secular constitution, because we do not want to [words indistinct] another civil war (?about our) religion. And we totally reject as a movement, we will not agree to use religion as a force to subugate the Sudanese minorities and the undecided Sudanese who do not believe in any religion. God created us equal and therefore service to God is an individual decision and to the country is a duty to man, to his people, and country.

I will not discuss very much because peace is a must and we do not want to witness more bloodshed in the coming year of 1989 and I hope all of you will agree with me. I hope many of you will agree with me, Anya Nya II for peace, Anya Nya II for advance of this country. Anya Nya II is for the unity of the Sudan, this on the federal system.

My dear gallant officers, especially Commander Peter Kulang, Commander Abraham (Bol), Commander (Tut Garafan), to alert all our forces, the peace is still yet to be announced. We must keep our forces at their strategic position until when all the political forces agree for this peaceful move.

### Libya's Jabir Meets Defense Minister Khalil

*LD0112042888 Tripoli JANA in English 1752 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Nov (JANA)—Col. Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir has met this morning in Khartoum General A.H. Khalil, minister of defence of sisterly Sudan.

Attending this meeting were Mr. M. Ja'far the Sudanese minister of education and higher education and the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in sisterly Sudan.

### Meets Armed Forces Commander

*LD0112043388 Tripoli JANA in English 1754 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Nov, (JANA)—Col. Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir has met this afternoon General F.A. Ali, commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces.

Attending this meeting were Mr. M. Ja'far, the Sudanese minister of education and higher education and the secretary of the Libyan Arab brotherhood Bureau in sisterly Sudan.

## Bahrain

### Interior Minister on Security, Crime Situation

*PM0112101688 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Nov 88 p 3*

[Unattributed interview with Interior Minister Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Interviewer] How does Your Excellency view the security situation in the region after the Gulf war?

[Al Khalifah] Undoubtedly the war had an impact on the security situation in the region, but now that the war is over we are optimistic and working toward a new phase of stability and intensive cooperation. We are concentrating on drawing up a new strategy within that context.

[Interviewer] As interior minister, do you believe that with the end of the Iraq-Iran war and the return of calm to the region you have now moved from protecting political security to protection in other security fields, such as drugs and crime?

[Al Khalifah] Crime exists in every society. The drug problem and the way to combat drugs constitute an integral part of the security forces' task in any society. Methods differ from one country to another, but the main task of any security force is to combat crimes and drugs. Undoubtedly that task will be concentrated on. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Your Excellency Minister, let us conclude this brief interview by talking about political prisoners in Bahrain and what is said about them abroad.

[Al-Khalifah] There are no political prisoners. Like any other state, we have our own laws which apply to everyone. If anyone is associated with any opposition political circles, let the law and courts deal with such cases. The Interior Ministry can do nothing but apply the law. Some people are trying to distort Bahrain's reputation by making such allegations. They are agents for foreign circles. [passage omitted]

## Kuwait

### PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives for Talks 25 Nov

*LD2611042988 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2357 GMT 25 Nov 88*

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Nov (SPA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Kuwait tonight as part of a tour of a number of Arab states.

In a statement to KUNA on arrival, 'Arafat said that he would have talks with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah on issues pertaining to a plan for an Arab-Palestinian move to exploit the positive international wave of support for the struggle and jihad of the Palestinian people following the PNC resolutions concerning the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state and the PLO's recognition of UN Resolution 242 and 338.

He added that the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state had enjoyed worldwide support and welcome as the number of states that had recognized the Palestinian state has risen to 65 states in the 10 days following the proclamation of independence.

He expressed hope that recognition of this state will continue, stressing that this is an indication of the isolation of the Zionist enemy, which is becoming more and more confused these days while Palestinian steps are gaining confidence and competence.

### AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM Urges Boycott of UN Talks

*JN3011150588 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 28 Nov 88 pp 1, 23*

[Editorial: "Boycott the General Assembly Meetings!"]

[Text] The U.S. stand on the Palestine question and Arab issues in general is a hostile one which needs no further proof.

We were sure, even before the U.S. State Department announced its refusal to grant an entry visa to 'Arafat to enable him to address the General Assembly, that the Palestinian request would be turned down and that the decision by the secretary of state of a major power would be full of rancor and hatred against the Arabs and the Palestinians.

The question now is: What will Arab reaction be? Will it go beyond the official statements or remain within its usual traditional limits, which is swallowing the U.S. stand and considering it part of the U.S.-Israeli loyalty equation, an equation under which U.S. President-elect George Bush avoided any major issues concerning the Middle East conflict?

The U.S. Administration could not find anything in the PNC resolutions other than terrorism to compare with Israeli rationalism. Thus, Shultz' decision to withhold the entry visa is in harmony with the general U.S. policy which calls for underlining Israeli democracy versus Palestinian terrorism. Of course, the Israelis will exploit U.S. rejection and continue to counter Arab and Palestinian moves to secure more support and recognition for the Palestinian state.

Here lies the importance of adopting a clear and frank Arab stand on the U.S. rejection and Washington's commitment to peace, security and Israeli repressive operations.

If the United States has turned itself into a master over the United Nations and has permitted its secretary of state to exercise trusteeship over its rules and regulations, accepting or rejecting whomever he likes, then this is indeed intolerable, and there must be a collective action affirming the majority's unity against the intransigence of the U.S.-Israeli minority.

He who supports Israel's plans of suppression, territorial expansion, and tampering with other peoples' lives and destinies with total disregard for human rights must be deterred. The least we can do is boycott the work of the General Assembly and declare our rejection of any U.S. action to impose its tutelege and influence on others.

This stand is required from the Arabs and from all those who have recognized the new Palestinian state and blessed the moderation and realism of the PNC resolutions, including the Soviet Union and China.

The visa is the first test for sincerity of stands. It is also the key to an Arab and international stand against biased U.S. policies and positions.

## United Arab Emirates

### Bahraini Sources Deny Shi'ite Scholar Kidnapped

*PM2511104288 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Nov 88 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Al-Gharifi Left Manama for an Arab Capital; He Was Not Kidnapped and He Did Not Face Any Problems"]

[Text] Manama, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed sources in Bahrain that Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Gharifi, head of the Ja'farite Awqaf Department in the UAE, who was deported from Abu Dhabi, arrived in Manama a few days ago and was then allowed to travel to any destination he liked.

The sources denied that Shaykh al-Gharifi has had any problems or was kidnapped, as claimed in some reports. He is not known to the authorities in Bahrain, which he left 15 years ago. They added that as there were no reservations about him by any Bahraini security organ, he was permitted to leave Manama airport for another Arab capital.

Agencies have been claiming over the past 2 days that Shaykh al-Gharifi and one of his companions were kidnapped last Tuesday and that his kidnappers asked his family to leave Abu Dhabi and told them that they would hand his body over to them later on.

Some agencies said that Shaykh al-Gharifi is of Bahraini origin but obtained UAE citizenship and claimed that the UAE handed him over to the Bahrainin authorities.

### President Returns From Visit to Morocco 28 Nov

*JN2911154888 Manama WAKH in English 1510 GMT 29 Nov 88*

[text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 29 (GNA)—UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan returned home last night after a visit to Morroco.

During the visit, Shaykh Zayid met with King Hassan II of Morocco on a wide range of global issues, issues of common concern, and bilateral relations.

### Petroleum Minister Returns From Iraq 30 Nov

*JN3011205188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1955 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Nov (WAKH)—Dr Mani Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and natural resources minister, returned to Abu Dhabi from Baghdad today following a visit to Iraq during which he held talks with senior Iraqi officials. He also participated in the recent OPEC meeting which concluded its work in Vienna on Monday [28 November]

In a statement made upon his return, Dr al-'Utaybah affirmed the UAE's commitment to the letter and spirit of the agreement which was signed by the OPEC member states to bring about stability in the oil market and bolster the price of oil to make it reach $18 per barrel.

### AL-ITTIHAD: U.S. 'Captive' to Israeli Policy

*JN3011152588 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 27 Nov 88 p 1*

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] The United States has responded to the PNC resolutions by violating international pacts and preventing PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat from entering the United States to deliver a speech before the UN General Assembly.

That was the U.S. reply to the PNC resolutions—described by the majority of world nations and organizations as a positive step serving the cause of peace in the Middle East.

Thus, the U.S. Administration has violated the headquarters agreement which bans the U.S. Administration from preventing UN members from reaching the world organization's headquarters in New York. The PLO is an observer member of the United Nations. In fact, it has become the representative of a state which has now been recognized by about 60 UN member states.

The United States accuses 'Arafat of terrorism. Yet, it opens its doors wide for Shamir, Peres, and other Zionist diehards, who are the pillars of terrorism in the world by virtue of their long criminal record and the massacres they have perpetrated against the Palestinians.

The justifications which have been made by the United States through its Secretary of State Shultz for this rejection are an admission that U.S. policy is captive to the aggressive Zionist policy, which rejects all just and peaceful solutions.

## Yemen Arab Republic

### President Salih Views Domestic, Regional Issues

*PM2911124288 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 25 Nov 88 pp 18-19*

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Milhim Karam in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] Karam: The YAR has witnessed two outstanding events. The first was the Consultative Council elections last summer and the second was the fourth general meeting of the General People's Congress. What is the significance of these two events in the YAR's democratic process, and what steps will follow?

Salih: The significance of these two events is that they are linked on the one hand to the completion of the state's constitutional, political, and popular institutions, and on the other hand to confirmation of the democratic implementation of the principle of people's participation in forging the conditions of the Yemeni way of life as a national choice and as the foundation of the national, democratic, development, and unity responsibilities. They also reflect national unity. [passage omitted]

Milhim: The Sanaa unity agreement with the achievements it brought about, such as the reopening of borders between the two parts of Yemen, is considered by observers to be an illuminating development in Arab affairs at a time of receding pan-Arabism. What will come after these achievements, and what about complete Yemeni unity?

Salih: The work for unity continues and cannot stop. Efforts are currently under way to implement everything that has been agreed upon. The recent Sanaa unity agreement has played a major part in defining the steps to follow, which is the most important thing in the Yemeni reunification process because it has to do with drawing up a timetable for submitting the unity state's constitution to the consultative council and the people's assembly in the two parts of Yemen prior to submitting it to the people in both sectors in a public referendum. There is no doubt that this step will determine the final and fateful objectives of the unity process. [passage omitted]

Karam: Some observers believe that the discovery of oil in Yemen opens the way to your joining the GCC. Has anyone raised this matter with you and what obstacles stand in the way of such a move?

Salih: Observers are entitled to their opinions. Iraq is an oil state but not a GCC member, though it plays an effective part at ministerial meetings of the Arab Gulf states. We enjoy warm and constantly growing relations with the Gulf states in various fields, including cooperation and coordination, but we do not link the discovery of oil in our country to the possibility of joining the GCC. [passage omitted]

Karam: It has been reported repeatedly that an Arab summit conference called by the Custodian of the Two Holy Places, King Fahd of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, will be held in Riyadh shortly. The YAR prime minister recently visited Egypt where he held talks on such a summit. What are the chances of such a conference materializing and of Egypt attending?

Salih: The ordinary Arab summit conference is still on but the circumstances facing the Arab nation prevented its being held. Now, however, there is no reason to postpone any Arab conference because such conferences are important for discussion of all aspects of Arab affairs. It is undoubtedly now more necessary than ever that Egypt attend these meetings.

Karam: Lebanon is now at a critical stage which threatens its entity and survival. How do you explain the slow Arab approach to rescuing it? What Arab moves do you suggest and, in your view, does Lebanon's growing crisis not warrant a summit conference of brothers?

Salih: I have repeatedly maintained that no Arab move at any level to end the regrettable crisis of fraternal Lebanon can be very fruitful as long the divisions and conflicts between the people of Lebanon continues. The brother Lebanese people, before anyone else, hold the key to a solution. Once the Lebanese people agree on a solution then the entire Arab nation must support implementation of what they agree upon. So the Arab nation's position would support and complement any basic Lebanese step.

Karam: Do you believe that the declaration of an independent Palestinian state is the right way to speed up settlement of the Middle East conflict, particularly in the wake of Israeli elections and the election of George Bush as U.S. president?

Salih: The YAR recognized the independent Palestinian state on Palestinian territory with Jerusalem as its capital as soon as we heard of the PNC approval of the move. We emphasize here that we support the Palestinian decisions made by the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, the PLO. We back and support any step they take and any step they think would restore their legitimate rights, which include an independent Palestinian state.

Karam: You know President-elect George Bush well. Do you believe that under his leadership the U.S. Administration will seriously pursue the idea of an international conference?

Salih: The U.S. policy on the Middle East is clear and known. We hope that the U.S. Administration under President George Bush will be more understanding of this issue, especially since he is very well acquainted with the region and its problems, having long occupied an important decisionmaking position as vice president. It is therefore hoped that under his administration the United States will effectively help create a climate of greater responsibility in favor of such a conference. [passage omitted]

## Minister on Successful Anti-Missile Missile Test

*JN3011181088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 nov 88*

[Text of message from Industry and Military Industrialization Minister Husayn Kamil to President Saddam Husayn; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O company of jinn and men! If you have power to go beyond the confines of the heavens and earth, then do go. But you cannot go save with authority. [Koranic verses]

Mr president leader, may God preserve and protect you. Guided by the creative thinking of Your Excellency which stipulates that there are no limits to the capabilities of the Iraqis, and in implementation of Your Excellency's directives regarding the military industrialization's mastering of sophisticated technological links to build our great Iraq, the Iraq of victory and dignity, an elite group of your scientist-soldiers, of the mujahidin of the military industrialization, have achieved under the leadership and supervision of Lieutenant General Dr Eng 'Amir Muhammad Rashid after several months of persistent efforts characterized by knowledge, patience, and faith in great Iraq another scientific accomplishment to be added to the new arsenal of the military industrialization.

This accomplishment has international distinction. It is an accomplishment that, under your leadership, adds a great defense capability to our Arab nation and to our lofty country, Iraq, thus making Iraq one of the most advanced countries in this field.

With the help of God the Almighty, at 1630 [1330 GMT] on 19 November 1988, medium range surface-to-surface missiles were intercepted and entirely destroyed before they fell on the ground at different altitudes and ranges. It must also be noted that more than 2 months ago, short range surface-to-surface missiles were intercepted and entirely destroyed at different altitudes and ranges.

Your Excellency President leader, while conveying these glad tidings to you, we make the pledge of men to you and our great people to continue to render continuous endeavors and further uninterrupted efforts to make the latent capabilities of the Iraqis spurt forth, as the Iraqis are the ones who built the first world civilizations and accomplishments. The Iraqis will raise these accomplishments to the level desired by Your Excellency's ambitions. May God the cherished and wise help your efforts succeed, Mr President.

[Signed] Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization.

## Missile Named 'Al-Faw-1'

*JN3011183288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn tonight named the Iraqi anti-missile missile Al-Faw-1. Earlier today, President Saddam Husayn received a message from Brigadier General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, announcing the success of a test-firing of an Iraqi anti-surface-to-surface missile missile.

## TV Airs Film on Missile

*JN3011192188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—Baghdad television tonight screened a film on the launching of the Iraqi Al-Faw-1 anti-surface-to-surface missile. The viewers saw details of the experiment beginning from the operations room until Al-Faw-1 intercepted and destroyed a surface-to-surface missile in the air.

The new Iraqi missile, which President Saddam Husayn called Al-Faw-1, is the result of an Iraqi scientific effort and a series of tests embodying the president's words that Iraqis have unlimited capabilities.

## RCC Issues Amnesty for Political Prisoners

*JN3011170788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—The RCC this evening issued a general and comprehensive amnesty covering escapees and those convicted for political reasons. The decision affects escapees inside and outside Iraq and the inmates and prisoners whose verdicts will have become final before the date this decision is put into effect. Following is the text of the RCC decision:

Decision: According to the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided in its session on 30 November 1988 to:

First, declare a general and comprehensive amnesty covering escapees who have escaped for political reasons whether they are inside or outside Iraq. All legal and pursuit measures taken against them will be stopped entirely.

Second, declare a general and comprehensive amnesty affecting the inmates and prisoners convicted for political reasons and whose verdicts will have become final before this decision is put into effect.

Third, the provisions contained in the first paragraph of this decision will go into effect for 1 month if those covered in this paragraph reside inside Iraq and for 3 months if they reside outside Iraq, beginning with the date this decision is put into effect.

Fourth, this decision will go into effect once published in the official gazette. The ministers and concerned agencies shall implement this decision.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

### Ramadan Assesses Gulf Peace Negotiations

*LD0112092888 Kuwait KUNA in English 0816 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 1 (KUNA)—A top Iraqi official was quoted here Thursday as saying that the power struggle in Iran is one of two factors slowing the pace of Geneva peace talks to resolve the eight-year old war between the two Gulf states. First deputy premier, Taha Yasin Ramadan, also blamed the impasse in the peace talks on the complexities which the negotiators have been trying to resolve.

"Eight years of war do not require eight years of negotiations, but definitely it would be a long and difficult process in view of the outstanding issues on hand," Ramadan said in an interview published today in Kuwaiti newspapers.

"After eight years of war, do you expect us to reach agreement within 10 days," asked the Iraqi official.

While stressing Iraq's commitment to peace, Ramadan indicated Baghdad would not compromise any of its legitimate rights under any circumstances. He emphasized that Iraq would not give in to pressure from a number of countries, including some permanent Security Council members, who have suggested offering Iran some compromises to sooth its war humiliation.

"There is nothing on record that the vanquished had been given rewards, because it is the victor who deserves all the prizes for imposing peace," said Ramadan.

Replying to a question, Ramadan suggested a new peace agreement that annuls all previous accords, particularly the 1975 Algiers accord, which he said had been imposed on Iraq by the late shah of Iran to extract territorial concessions. He pointed out that under the agreement, Iraq had to accept Iranian demands to share the Shatt al-'Arab waterway that flows into the Arabian Gulf, as the mark of their southern international borders.

Ramadan said Iraq had unwillingly signed the agreement in hopes that the shah would stop meddling in Iraq's domestic affairs, particularly support for Kurdish rebels in the north.

The first deputy premier indicated that once peace has become a reality, the Iraqi-based Iranian opposition, has either to respect Iraqi commitments or leave to any country of choice.

Turning to Iraq's estimated 60 billion dollar foreign debt, Ramadan underlined the strength of the Iraqi economy and ability to meet all foreign debts mostly owed to western and eastern institutional lenders.

Ramadan praised h.h. the amir's proposals at the U.N. to trim the foreign debts of poor nations, saying that the amir had sought to lay the foundations for a new international economic order symbolic of justice.

Ramadan said Iraq respects the Palestinian decision that declared the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and would do everything to realize the national Palestinian rights through stepped up support to the popular uprising inside the occupied Arab lands.

He refuted western media reports alleging an Iraqi military threat to the Arabian Gulf states, saying foreigners are seeking to draw a wedge between sisterly Arab countries.

Despite the war, he said, national development had proceeded with full speed and strength. He added that the regular Army and the paramilitary people's army would take part in the post-war reconstruction efforts.

On relations with Kuwait, Ramadan stressed that Iraq was keen to finalize border demarcation with Kuwait soon after having demarcated the borders with Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Ramadan said Iraq was seeking more than resumption of diplomatic ties with Egypt and believes that Cairo should actively take part in Arab summits and meetings to bolster Arab causes.

"We want Egypt to seriously and actively contribute to common Arab work. This would pull her (Egypt) away from the other camp," Ramadan said in apparent reference to Israel.

### Foreign Minister Views Iran's Stand on POW's

*JN0112103588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has asserted that the Iranian regime's dealing with the POW issue has always reflected its expansionist, aggressive policy. He explained that since a cease-fire was reached, the Iranian regime has pursued methods of trickery, procrastination, and evasion of international commitments and charters that make a total exchange of POW's following a cease-fire imperative.

Addressing a ceremony today held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to mark martyr's day, Tariq 'Aziz said the Iranian regime deliberately resorted to trickery and fraud in releasing, in three batches, approximately half

the number of POW's agreed upon with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], giving justifications not based on any evidence or neutral document.

The foreign minister assered that Iraq confronted this game with a firm stand and reciprocity. He explained that we released Iranian POW's in proportion to the number of Iraqi POW's released. He said the Iranian regime stopped the POW exchange once its game was exposed and when it found that Iraq's stand was firm in this regard. Referring to the Iranian foreign minister's message to the ICRC chairman yesterday, Tariq 'Aziz said: Iraq will not release the remaining POW's unless the Iranian side releases the remaining Iraqi POW's. He explained that only then cann the exchange of POW's resume according to the bases agreed upon in Geneva.

The foreign minister asserted that the Iraqi stand on this issue is an honest one based on the agreement. He said the Iranian side should honestly abide by the agreement's articles and release the agreed upon numbers. Tariq 'Aziz reiterated Iraq's rejection of the justifications given by the Iranian regime. He said they are not based on any evidence and lack any objective documentation, so we will not take them into account.

## Reportage on Visit of UAE Petroleum Minister

### Arrives 28 Nov

*JN2911121588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0610 GMT 29 Nov 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, arrived in Baghdad last night on a visit of several days to Iraq.

Al-'Utaybah told INA that he will take the opportunity to visit Baghdad to convey UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan's greetings to his brother President Saddam Husayn. He expressed happiness with visiting Baghdad and said that he will hold consultations with Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim on cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the oil field.

Answering an INA question on the UAE stand on the results of the meetings of OPEC Ministerial Council, Al-'Utaybah said: First of all, we are happy with these positive results that have showed the unity of the organization for the first time since the 1983 London agreement. He said that the recent OPEC conference produced an agreement signed by the 13 OPEC member states. This agreement has fixed the production ceiling at 18.5 million barrels per day [BPD]. This figure is at least one and a half million bpd less than the world demand for OPEC oil, and this will support the oil market, restore balance to it, and reinforce oil prices to reach $18 per barrel within the next few weeks, God willing.

Al-'Utaybah added: As for the UAE stand, the UAE signed the aforementioned agreement, and therefore, is committed to it in letter and spirit, whether concerning the production ceiling or production quotas and prices.

### Meets With Saddam Husayn

*JN2911124688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 29 Nov 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, this morning. The meeting was attended by Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, the president's secretary, and the UAE ambassador in Baghdad.

### Comments on OPEC Agreement

*JN2911145488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 29 Nov 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, said he expected yesterday's OPEC agreement in Vienna to reflect positively on the oil market.

In a press conference held here today in the presence of Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, Al-'Utybah said that the agreement showed OPEC's unity and determination to defend the oil market and prices and to overcome all differences in views that emerged every now and then among its member states.

He said that the end of the Iraq-Iran war was the main factor in reaching this agreement. He pointed out that the new OPEC agreement has been the first agreement to be adopted unanimously by all 13 members of the organization since 1983. Al-'Utaybah explained that disagreements in OPEC have led to a quick drop in oil prices since 1983, with the price of the barrel falling to around $10 in the spot market.

He expressed hope that the latest OPEC agreement will rebalance the oil market and raise the barrel price to $18, the price that the organization has set as the standard and official price for 2 years.

Al-'Utaybah said that the new element in the agreement is that all OPEC member states are determined more than ever to implement the letter and spirit of the agreement. Almost all oil producing countries expressed support for the agreement through the delegations they sent to Vienna. He said that all oil producing countries are in the same boat, sailing toward a common target—the stability of the oil market against a reasonable price rate—$18 a barrel.

He called on oil producing countries outside OPEC to match their good intentions with action and reduce oil production, though partially, to prove that they are also supporting the oil market. This will show the unity of all

producers and help stabilize the oil market, he said. He pointed out that OPEC reduced its production from 22 million barrels per day to 18.5 million.

Al-'Utaybah said that many committees will follow up implementation of the OPEC agreement on production levels. The committees will also follow up the oil market and the extent of its response to the OPEC resolutions.

The UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources described his current visit to Iraq as fraternal.

### Makes Departure Statement

*JN3011133488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1213 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, left Baghdad today following a 3-day visit.

In a statement to INA, Al-'Utaybah expressed his pleasure for visiting Iraq and meeting President Saddam Husayn. He said that his talks with the Iraqi officials were positive and dealt with oil issues among Iraq, the UAE, and OPEC and coordination of stands in this regard.

Regarding the positive results achieved during the OPEC conference, Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah said: "We hope that more positive results will emerge in the next few days."

### Labor Decides Against Negotiations With Likud

*TA3011174788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1722 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Report by Razi Barqay at Labor Party headquarters in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] The Labor Party will be in the opposition. A surprise was scored in the vote taken a few minutes ago at the Labor Party Bureau. The proposal of Peres and Rabin was voted down by a small majority. Journalists make mistakes sometimes, and so do party observers. They had foreseen a majority for those advocating negotiations with the Likud. However, 61 bureau members voted against entering negotiations over a Likud-led government that would rule for 4 years; only 57 members voted in favor of entering these negotiations, and 1 abstained.

With a majority of 61 to 57 the Labor Party Bureau a few minutes ago decided not to enter negotiations with the Likud on the terms put forth by Yitzhaq Shamir. We asked Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin: Does this mean that Labor is automatically going into the opposition? Rabin's face was expressionless as he left the room, and he refused to answer our question. To judge by the applause of all those who objected to a dialogue with the Likud, it seems they are certain that the Labor Party this evening decided to go into the opposition.

Contrary to early assessments that Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres would muster a majority, by a vote of 61 against, 57 in favor, and 1 abstention, the Labor Party Bureau today decided not to enter negotiations with the Likud.

### Shamir 'Surprised' by Labor Vote; Others React

*TA3011192688 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Upon learning the results of the vote at the Labor Party Bureau, officials in the Prime Minister's Office said Mr Shamir was surprised, since he had believed the bureau would approve negotiations with the Likud. A new situation has been created now, the officials added, and Mr Shamir must get ready for it.

Our correspondent Yig'al Goren was told a few minutes ago that Shamir decided to set up a narrow-based government at once, and would not wait for the Alignment. The prime minister is currently consulting with Minister Nisim and Knesset Member [MK] Dan Meridor.

Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz, the leader of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], told our political correspondent Yig'al Goren that he is in a state of shock in the wake of the Labor Party Bureau's vote. If Shamir fails to form a broad-based government, Rabbi Peretz said, a narrow-based government would face insurmountable difficulties, would have a hard time dealing with the economy, and our international image would be tarnished.

MK Ge'ula Kohen of Tehiya has said that the Labor Party's vote was identical to the people's vote in the Knesset elections. She called on the prime minister to seize this historic opportunity immediately and set up a national government.

Minister Yosef Shapira of the National Religious Party proposed that the prime minister call elections in 6 weeks if he fails to establish a stable government.

### Likud, SHAS Sign Coalition Agreement

*TA0112060088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that in the coming days he will present to the Knesset a government that will serve the country according to its beliefs and faithfully. Following last night's decision by the Labor Party Bureau not to join in a national unity government, the prime minister held telephone contacts with representatives of the religious parties in a bid to assure that they would join a Likud narrow coalition.

One stumbling block was removed when after 4 hours of negotiations in the office of Ari'el Sharon: SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] signed a coalition agreement with the Likud. According to the agreement, SHAS will receive two portfolios: interior and housing. SHAS Spokesman Rabbi Moshe Peretz, the brother of leader Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz, says this morning there was also more to the agreement:

[Begin recording] [Peretz] Also some of the other items that have to be decided in the Knesset, like the law of conversion and the law of the city councils, by which the city councils will have the right to decide on religious matters within the cities.

[Unidentified correspondent] Did you get commitments from the Likud to push for these laws?

[Peretz] We have commitments from the Likud that these laws will be passed, yes.

[Correspondent] But I am asking you if there might be future meetings with Degel Hatora to try to convince them to come in?

[Peretz] Probably yes, especially after the development of last night.

[Correspondent] The SHAS Party was split—at least earlier on—on whether to join Labor or Likud. Is there any opposition within the party to the agreement reached last night?

[Peretz] No, no opposition at all. There was an opposition before the decision of the Council of Sages; once the decision of the Council of Sages had been taken in favor of joining the Likud, there was complete unity on all fronts regarding the SHAS Party. [end recording]

### Alignment-Aguda Deal; Degel Hatora Holds Balance

*TA0112064588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that Agudat Yisra'el last night initialed an agreement with the Alignment on a future partnership. The final agreement will be signed at 1100 today in a meeting with Alignment Chairman Shim'on Peres. Knesset Member Rabbi Menahem Porush told the Voice of Israel that the Agudat Yisra'el National Executive Committee will meet this afternoon to approve the agreement. He said the Alignment reiterated its earlier promise to raise the Who Is a Jew amendment for a vote in the central committee of the party. Rabbi Porush pointed out that the Likud and Alignment at present have equal chances of setting up a government.

Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, the Degel Hatora leader, said that his party does not rule out either of the candidates for the premiership, although it prefers a broad-based government. He said the small parties must pressure the two large parties to set up a joint government.

Our correspondent points out that the coalition scene at present stands as follows: The Alignment bloc has 60 Knesset members, the Likud bloc has 58, and Degel Hatora's 2 Knesset members—who can swing the balance either way—have not yet made a final decision.

### Shinuy, CRM, MAPAM on Coalition Deals

*TA0112115588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Labor Party, too, has its problems with establishing a coalition under its wing. The Shinuy-Center list says it will not join a coalition under Labor if the party has in fact promised Agudat Yisra'el that it will change the Law of Return and grant army service exemption to large numbers of yeshiva students. Shinuy has called on Labor to stop all contacts with Agudat Yisra'el, claiming that the Labor Party is merely using this as a bargaining counter aimed ultimately at the Likud.

The Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] also has said it will not join a Labor-led coalition if Labor succumbs to the demands of the religious camp. Shulamit Aloni said they will not be party to what she termed the political acrobatics and blackmail games conducted by Rafi Edri in the name of Labor. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 1 December adds: "MAPAM has published a statement saying that in order to dispel all illusions, it wishes to clarify that it will not join any government based on an arrangement allowing amendment of the Law of Return."]

### Shamir on Coalition Plans, Labor Decision

*TA0112081888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Arye Golan and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami—live]

[Text] [Golan] Good morning, Prime Minister. The Council for Soviet Jewry announced that over 120 people last night received visas to emigrate to Israel. We would like to ask for your comments on this. Does it signify something? Is it a step toward normalization, as Yuri Kosharovsky tells us?

[Shamir] It is excellent news. First of all, I am happy for Yuri Kosharovsky, who is a veteran refusnik in the USSR, and I very much hope we will see him and many of his friends in Israel in the near future.

[Golan] With me in the studio is our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

[Ben-'Ami] Prime Minister, I would like to return to our current situation in Israel. You were not happy with our wording that the political situation has been complicated following last night's events: the Labor Party Bureau's decision, the start of negotiations by your office, and the Alignment's contacts to get the support of Agudat Yisra'el to form a parliamentary bloc to prevent a Likud-led government. First of all, do you think the situation is not complicated and that you can form a government today?

[Shamir] I, of course, very much regret that yesterday the majority in the Labor Party Bureau showed lack of consideration for Israel's real national interest by rejecting any possibility of setting up a broad-based government. It has once again been shown that the Labor Party is continuing to move left. There is growing extremism toward the left there.

[Ben-'Ami] Can you therefore now try to sum up what has been achieved, such as the agreement signed last night with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim].

[Shamir] I do not want to make interim reports right now. We will make a major effort today to conclude agreements with all the relevant parties in order to set up a government.

[Ben-'Ami] But what if Agudat Yisra'el remains firm in its agreement with the Alignment and does not join a narrow-based government with the Likud?

[Shamir] I hope that this will change during the course of the day.

[Ben-'Ami] Can you tell us how? Do you plan to meet with Agudat Yisra'el representatives personally?

[Shamir] I told you that I cannot at present go into details about the steps we will take during the day, but I have a great deal of hope. I believe that we will be able to set up a government.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, you said that what happened in the Labor Party Bureau last night proves that the Alignment continues to move to the left. I would like to ask you about reports that you are not pleased with the possibility that you might end up leading an extreme right-wing-ultraorthodox government. Is this the real outcome of the bureau's decision?

[Shamir] I do not think that we are setting up an extreme rightist government. The Likud is at present the centrist movement in Israel. In accordance with the tradition of all former Israeli coalitions, we plan to set up a coalition with the religious parties. I, of course, preferred a broad-based government because I was convinced—and I am still convinced—that such a government is more important and better for Israel right now, and I very deeply regret that the Labor Party moved even further away from the center. As I said, it showed lack of consideration for the national interest and the wishes of the majority of the Israel public.

[Golan] Prime Minister, is there still any chance of bringing the Alignment back into a broad-based government?

[Shamir] I am the wrong person to ask. I see here a move that is probably very hard to go back on. As I said, I regret it very much, but we must set up a government. The nation cannot remain without a government.

[Ben-'Ami] The government that you are now trying to set up is one that will have to meet its commitments on religious issues. Will these be implemented as promised at the start of the coalition contacts?

[Shamir] The Likud will keep all its commitments; there is no doubt about that. Once promises are made, they must be kept. On the other hand, I am sure that this government will have an excellent composition. We will make all efforts to incorporate in the government the people with the best talents and loyalty to serve the State of Israel.

[Ben-'Ami] Does such a government mean a new settlement drive in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, despite possible backlash from abroad?

[Shamir] Of course there will be settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. We never stopped it, and we will continue.

[Ben-'Ami] Within the budgetary limits, of course.

[Shamir] Of course, it is obvious that the only limitation is budgetary.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you also taking into account reactions to such a move—for example, a possible Egyptian reaction to a renewal of the settlement drive?

[Shamir] There is no connection. Egypt cannot dictate to us the pace of settlement. This is not its concern. It also has nothing to do with peace moves. We have said that peace and improvement of ties with our Arab neighbors have nothing to do with the settlement issue, which is internal Israeli policy.

[Ben-'Ami] One more question on the structure of such a government, although you do not want to give an interim report. The internal struggle between Likud ministers for portfolios is expected to worsen. How will you settle the dispute?

[Shamir] I believe that the strong desire by all Likud members to set up a government as quickly as possible will be greater than any personal controversies.

[Ben-'Ami] In that case, do you really hope to be able present your new government to the Knesset on Monday?

[Shamir] I will do everything possible to achieve that aim, and I believe I will succeed.

[Ben-'Ami] One more question, sir. Will the government that you hope to set up and present to the Knesset on Monday have a political program? For instance, with such a composition, will it be able to formulate a policy line on peace?

[Shamir] Of course. From the very first day we will start a series of continuous efforts to advance peace between Israel and its neighbors.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you disappointed with last night's climax to the coalition efforts? Are you surprised by what happened?

[Shamir] I admit that I am disappointed, because I continue to believe in Israel's national need for a broad-based government.

[Ben-'Ami] Thank you very much, Mr Prime Minister.

[Shamir] Thank you.

### Peres Interviewed on Coalition Negotiations

*TA3011220688 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, Labor Party chairman, by Yig'al Goren, Hanan 'Azran, and Yoram Ronen on the "Moqed" program—live]

[Excerpt] [Ronen] Good evening. A shake-up in the Labor Party leadership: a majority against Peres and Rabin in a dramatic vote in Labor's Bureau. At this

moment, Labor is going into opposition. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has arrived in the Moqed studio from the stormy Bureau meeting in which, perhaps for the first time in the party's history, a majority voted against its leaders. Good evening Shim'on Peres, and good evening to my colleagues Yig'al Goren and Hanan 'Azran. Mr Peres, does tonight's vote mean that the Bureau stated a clear no-confidence in the Labor Party's leadership, meaning in you and Yitzhaq Rabin?

[Peres] This is a very good question. Why? There are disagreements on a very serious issue. There was a debate on the issue. This is not a personal matter; not for Rabin and not for me.

[Goren] You had a position.

[Peres] So what? The party members are entitled to disagree with us. In general, I am proud to have such a party. I am proud of the high standard of discussion. I accept the fact that there is a majority of four members or so. This is not the first time, as you say. There had been far more serious issues than this one. For example, the most famous such issue was the Ben-Gurion-Jabotinsky agreement. A referendum was held, and the party members rejected it. I do not want to make parallels. When you join a true democratic party you should be ready for such a thing. I have no hard feelings or a feeling of failure. Just the opposite.

[Ronen] I would almost say that you are happy with the results of the voting.

[Peres] No. I believed that another conclusion was called for, though I was not easy with it. I believe that none of the sides voting tonight made an easy decision. This was a very complicated situation for both sides. I, however, made my position known very clearly. I did not lobby for it. I also believe that what took place today at the Bureau, in my opinion, is representative of the opinions of those who voted for us. There as well, opinions are split. I know some people who telephoned me yesterday and said: Do not enter the government. They called me again today and said: We reconsidered during the night—do enter the government. I also believe that the voting was cast on a very sophisticated formula of those members who had the counterproposition. They did not say, as you are, we will go into opposition. Their formula said they were against joining a government headed by Mr Yitzhaq Shamir for 4 years. I believe that this, too, influenced some members.

[Goren] Mr Peres, do you view the Bureau's vote tonight as a final statement, or are you going to ask for a discussion and vote by the Party's plenum to try and change what did not work out today?

[Peres] No, I will not address the plenum for the simple reason that one of the problems we had faced was the question of time. Mr Shamir was given a certain period of time to form a government. He asked us on Monday for an answer as soon as possible. That is why we have taken quite hasty procedures. Trying to convene the plenum would take too much time.

[Goren] Formally, however, it can be done. Under what circumstances?

[Peres] Yes. I believe it has to be submitted for the Bureau's approval; it is the body that makes up the agenda for the plenum; if some 30 members of the plenum members sign the request, it should be convened.

['Azran] Will you ask Yitzhaq Shamir for some more time, until you and Mr Rabin manage to arrive at a different, perhaps better, decision?

[Peres] No. The Bureau reached an unequivocal decision based on the propositions it had before it. I do not want to delude anyone. Some people can try to be smart and ask, what if it is not for 4 years, would that make a difference?—and so on. But the Bureau made its decision. I drafted the proposal for joining a Likud-led government. It did not win a majority. This chapter is over. I am still not saying that because of that we have a different government. I see all the difficulties now facing Shamir. I wish to remind you that last time it took 49 days to form a government.

['Azran] Is today's move just a trick that aims at placing the idea of rotation on the agenda of the negotiations with the Likud on forming a government?

[Peres] No. Labor had two opinions. One said: Join the Likud on the basis of the terms for negotiations that I presented today to the Bureau. Of course, we had counterproposals. The Bureau could have formally asked the negotiating team to raise the issue of rotation. I also said in my speech that this issue can be raised. I recommended not to raise it as a precondition. That is why there is no reason to talk of a trick.

[Ronen] Mr Peres, you, on the other hand, can now tell Shamir: the Bureau decided as it did. I have no mandate to join a broad-based government. Maybe, if you give us rotation, I could address the Bureau again and say, there are new terms.

[Peres] Look, you can say that; I cannot. The truth is that I have never addressed Shamir. The Bureau stated that anyone wishing to address the Likud has to get a mandate for that from the Bureau. Formally—and in public life, formalities do count—the Bureau empowered us to conduct negotiations for forming a government we would head. It said: If you want a broad-based government you should ask for a mandate. We checked whether there was any point in asking for one. Only if a minimum of our demands are met....

[Ronen, interrupting] They were met in general.

[Peres] Yes, they were met in most part. In my opinion, a basis for negotiations was formed. This does not mean that we could not have presented additional conditions. [passage omitted]

['Azran] If Mr Shamir in one way or another agrees to the idea of rotation, would this once again create the formula for a broad-based government?

[Peres] Look, I will not be the one to make such a proposal to Mr Shamir, but if he puts forth other suggestions I will hear him out; I have been saying this all along. As a rule, we should proceed in a statesmanlike manner; we should all talk to each other and to everybody. I do not think what you said is feasible, or else I would give you a more serious answer. I do not see Mr Shamir making such a proposal, and I do not have the patience to answer hypothetical questions.

[Ronen] But Mr Shamir is serious when he says that he intends to present his narrow-based government to the Knesset next Monday. Do you think he will be able to do that?

[Peres] He has the right to do that if he can.

[Ronen] Will you do anything to prevent that?

[Peres] What can I do to prevent him?

[Goren] The question is, Mr Peres, whether you will be setting meetings for tomorrow morning with the religious parties to prevent the possibility of establishing a narrow-based government led by the Likud and to set up a narrow government led by the Alignment.

[Peres] Once again, those are hypothetical questions.

[Goren] They are not hypothetical; this could happen as early as tomorrow morning or even this evening.

[Peres] Agudat Yisra'el leaders have made an announcement [that they support Peres as their candidate for the premiership for a full 4-year term], and not in the negotiations with us. Therefore, I do not see that Mr Shamir has the majority required to set up a government.

[Goren] And do you trust them?

[Peres] I trust them, and I trust what I heard.

[Goren] As was the case in the past, these coalition negotiations have been going back and forth like a ping-pong ball. The question is whether given this situation you can really count on setting up a narrow-based government, or will you step forward and say: Gentlemen, I have exhausted all efforts with the religious parties; we are aware of the general idea and henceforth we will be in the opposition. We will do what we can there.

[Peres] The president allots Knesset members a period of time to set up a government. Last time, it took a long time. I do not categorically rule out such a possibility, although I am not sure about it. Naturally, I would rather have Mr Shamir exhaust the mandate given him. We do not want to hold parallel negotiations, but I am definitely aware of the situation. It would be wrong for me to say that I am not aware of it.

[Goren] Do you think Alignment members watching us now would like to hear you say that you intend to start yet another round of negotiations with the religious parties after all that has been happening in the last 2 to 3 weeks?

[Peres] What do you want? To leave the country without a government? If Mr Shamir fails to set up a government, it will be our obligation to do so.

[Ronen] I would like to understand, Mr Peres: Are you saying you will not stand in Mr Shamir's way as long as he enjoys the mandate to set up a government? In other words, do you not intend to meet with representatives of Agudat Yisra'el, Degel Hatora, and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] as long as Shamir continues his efforts?

[Peres] We will meet, but we will not hold negotiations. We will talk to everybody and we will go ahead with the clarifications. But I will not enter negotiations on the establishment of a government as long as the president continues to entrust this task to Mr Shamir. [passage omitted]

['Azran] Do you think the Likud's political way should be given a chance?

[Peres] I do not see such a way; I am not aware that one exists. So what chance can it be given?

[Ronen] In the Moqed program in this studio I heard Yitzhaq Rabin say: We tried our way, that of an international conference, but we failed. The Likud has a political way based on autonomy and the Camp David accords. So let us give them a chance.

[Peres] I see no chance whatsoever; it is not I who has to give them a chance. I do not see anybody in the world giving Camp David a chance that would be acceptable to the Egyptians also. Although we did not rule out Camp David in the outgoing government, we did not focus on it. After all, the problem is not the sort of agreement we have with Egypt, but the sort of agreement we can reach with the Jordanians and the Palestinians. What I thought and still think about is not the sort of solution that can be reached today, but what the opening line can be: how to start talking to the Arab side. If we start talking, thousands of ideas will come up.

Mr Shamir was prime minister when we were not in the government. So why did he not start direct talks? Why does he always accuse me? He was prime minister for 2 years. Did I stop him from starting direct talks? Why did he not do that?

[Ronen] Perhaps Rabin's remarks that the Likud must be given a chance made Labor Party Bureau members have second thoughts. They then told themselves: If this is what is going to happen, perhaps it is better to be in the opposition.

[Peres] I am neither a commentator nor a cryptographer. You asked me a question and here is my answer: I do not know about any serious political plan of the Likud. After all, peace is not a prayer said in the synagogue. It is fine and dandy to pray for peace and call on the Lord to spread His wings of peace over us. One has to go to France or Washington and sit opposite Mitterrand and Shultz, who ask: Sir, what do you suggest? If you say you propose direct talks, but in fact Gaza, Judaea, and Samaria are an inseparable part of Israel, nobody will buy it. They will just say: Sir, you do not have a political plan. And those who sabotaged the London agreement, those who undermined the Jordanian option—and I was glad to hear Mr Shamir say that he also believes the Jordanian option is not dead—are clearing the way for the PLO. So what did we gain? [passage omitted]

### Firebombs Thrown at U.S. Consulate; No Damage

*TA3011180988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Two firebombs were thrown this evening at the front yard of the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that the firebombs ignited, but nobody was hurt and no damage was caused.

### 'Arab Notables' To Boycott U.S. Consulate

*TA0112104388 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Dec 88 pp 1, 2*

[Report by Dani Rubinstein, Dani Tzidqoni, and Yoram Levi]

[Excerpt] The "national institutions" in Judaea and Samaria are threatening to start boycotting the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem in the wake of the U.S. refusal to grant 'Arafat a visa to address the UN General Assembly. This was said by Arab notables in Jerusalem yesterday; they added that they will not show up for meetings with the consul or consulate events.

The Bethlehem Municipality announced yesterday it is canceling the traditional Christmas reception. The Civil Administration, on the other hand, will provide all the usual services in anticipation of the holiday. The announcement from Bethlehem was made by Deputy Mayor Hanna Nasir. [passage omitted]

### Arabs Urged To Return 'Blow' on 'Arafat Visa

*TA3011173288 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 29 Nov 88 p 1*

[Editorial: "From New York to Geneva"]

[Text] The joint Arab and international move to transfer the debates over the Palestinian problem, scheduled to be held at the beginning of next month, from New York to Geneva is of great significance at the current stage, requiring a unified Arab stance without hesitation. Moreover, this move requires a specific Syrian recognition of the Palestinian state, providing a serious and clear extension to the meaning and depth of the desired Arab stance.

The test at the present stage is not so much of the new administration, which announced that it was not informed of the decision by the Reagan administration's secretary of state to deny an entry visa to Yasir 'Arafat, as it actually is of the Arab resolve which has devoted its efforts toward a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

If the U.S. President-elect chose to announce through one of his aides this "lack of knowledge" about the gravest decision made by the "present" U.S. secretary of state, we ourselves are not obliged to wait as usual in our Arab capitals until President-elect George Bush enters his White House office on 20 January and decides for us what to do about the above U.S. refusal.

Arab action based on the minimum pan-Arab dignity affirms the need for success in transferring the UN General Assembly debates over the Palestinian problem from New York to Geneva. As long as official departments at the United Nations believe that this is a simple matter and will be approved by a large majority upon request, the opportunity available for us to achieve this unified pan-Arab dignity will give new momentum to the Arab political position in order to exert pressure on the U.S. Administration, not vice versa, and will serve as a new indication to encourage other countries that have not yet recognized the Palestinian state to move seriously and rapidly in doing so. Though we do not expect miracles in this context, we at least hope that this American blow will be returned immediately before some of our venerable Arab countries turn their left cheek for the next blow.

### UN Said 'Captive' of U.S. Decisionmaking

*TA2811122388 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 27 Nov 88 p 1*

[Editorial: "This Is What We Expected From Washington"]

[Text] We were not surprised by Washington's refusal to grant Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and his companions an entry visa to the United States. Since the PNC resolutions were announced in Algiers, Israel's leaders

have fiercely campaigned to prevent 'Arafat from reaching the UN rostrum and addressing the nations and countries of the world on the new peaceful tendency of the Palestinian people in their struggle to win their legitimate rights.

As we have stated previously, 'Arafat's ascent to the UN rostrum was not intended to increase his honor or prestige. Neither this nor any other address can have the magical effect of tipping the scales. The Palestinian people's sole intention was to focus attention on their cause in order to influence world public opinion.

We ask: Who is the loser in this irresponsible U.S. decision? Certainly not the PLO nor the Palestinian people. There are many other ways to get the Palestinian voice across to the world. The real loser is the dignity of the United Nations.

We feel pleased that our demand to visit the United States created such a storm, because the world will realize that the United Nations is a captive of U.S. decisionmaking. We did not expect the Americans to welcome 'Arafat and his companions upon arrival, but a superpower like the United States should be a model of level-headed and rational judgment.

This decision will only strengthen the resolve of the Palestinian people. America and the entire world are aware that the Palestinian people will neither capitulate nor will they or their struggle be overwhelmed by arrogant powers. We demand justice and peace, and we will continue our struggle whether America is pleased or angered.

## HADASHOT Views U.S. Decision on 'Arafat

*TA2811134688 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Nov 88 p 2*

[Editorial: "For the Time Being Only"]

[Text] A moment of satisfaction: There will be no U.S. visa for 'Arafat. In light of the general erosion in the world's perception of Israel, Shultz' action constitutes an impressive achievement.

The United States, which in its own way applies the carrot-and-stick approach on us, has decided to clip the wings of the Algiers conference decisions and stop the PLO's all-out drive to attain the legitimacy it holds so important. Nevertheless, one should not forgot that this was the initiative of George Shultz, a friend of Israel, and this man will be sitting at the secretary of state's desk for only one more month. Jim Baker, Shultz' successor, is free of any obligation, emotional or otherwise, to Israel. He is not very likely to fight for his opinions like his predecessor did when confronted with the traditional hostility of the U.S. State Department.

The United States will exact a price for such actions as the non-granting of the visa for 'Arafat. Reliance on the goodwill of the United States does not in any way substitute for an original and venturesome foreign policy.

## Syria Setting Up Beirut Intelligence Operation

*TA0112104188 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 1 Dec 88 p 2*

[Report from Jerusalem by Giyora Shamis]

[Text] The Syrian High Command in Lebanon is setting up a sophisticated intelligence operation in a new general headquarters in West Beirut where the one Druze and four Moslem brigades of the ten-brigade Lebanese army, sources in Lebanon told THE NATION yesterday. [sentence as published]

The five Christian brigades have a separate command post headed by Maj. Gen. Michel 'Awn, the caretaker prime minister of the Al-Jumayyil government.

The Syrians are expected to appoint Sami al-Khatib as chief of staff of the Moslem-Druze force. Al-Khatib, a Sunni Moslem, is a senior Lebanese intelligence officer.

The refurbished intelligence unit will give the Syrians a powerful supplementary Lebanese intelligence capability for the first time.

The unit will undoubtedly be run by Syrian officers, further consolidating the Syrian grip on Lebanon.

## Shamir on USSR 'Efforts' To Stop Anti-Semitism

*TA0112105688 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Dec 88 p 3*

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] A technical delegation will shortly depart from Israel to the Soviet Union to examine the possibility of establishing a Jewish cultural center in Moscow. This was said yesterday by Dr Yisra'el Singer, head of the World Jewish Congress, during a meeting with Ari'el Sharon.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who addressed the National Council for Soviet Jewry in Jerusalem yesterday, said that despite the dramatic changes which the Soviet Union is currently undergoing in the area of human rights—including a more liberal visa policy and the possibility of Jewish tourism to Israel—the anti-Zionist propaganda in the Soviet Union is continuing.

Shamir noted that the Soviet authorities are aware of the growing signs of anti-Semitism and are exerting efforts to stop this phenomenon. He expressed the hope that the consular delegation in Moscow will be able to fight these trends.

### AL-QABAS Reports Plan on West Bank Conditions

*JN3011204088 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 28 Nov 88 p 20*

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] AL-QABAS in Cairo unveiled some diplomatic reports about Israel recently attempting to prepare a plan to improve the situation in the occupied Arab territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The plan contained 12 articles which were presented to some Arab capitals, especially Cairo and Amman, through the United States, which wanted to intervene and convince the Palestinian leaderships to stop their activity in the uprising.

The proposed Israeli plan contains Israel's desire to diminish its role until it becomes mere supervision from behind the curtains while maintaining its security duties only; withdrawal of the army from most of the West Bank, except for the front positions, after executing all the proposed steps; and reassigning Arab mayors in the cities of Nabulus, Ramallah, Hebron, and Al-Birah. It has not yet been agreed whether this will happen at once or in stages.

The plan also includes doubling the set number of reunified families from 300 to 600 individuals. They will also study the fees imposed on the movement of goods over the border where Israel claims that these fees have been decreased and the profit it makes covers the administrative costs. They will study establishing a financial institution in which Jordan will serve the basic role and will seek to provide the necessary credit facilities for projects while concentrating on agricultural projects and to a lesser degree on industr,y or reopening a branch of one of the Jordanian banks that used to operate there in the past.

Israel affirmed that this is the only field in which some progress could now be made to improve the living conditions of the occupied territories' residents and the desire for Egypt to play a political and economic role in the Gaza Strip.

Reports said that Egypt and Jordan held joint discussions with the PLO on the Israeli plan and they agreed to its rejection, to continued joint coordination to support the uprising, and to continued international action to hold an international peace conference. [Passage omitted]

### 'Confrontations' Among Palestinians Over Strike

*JN3011091588 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Our correspondents in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have said that the residents of the territories have responded to a call from the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas—and the PFLP led by George Habash and declared an overall strike in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday on the anniversary of UN Resolution No 181, known as the partition resolution, contrary to the desire of the Unified National Leadership, which stands behind the incidents in the territories and which is supervised by the 'Arafatist Fatah Movement. This overall strike indicates the extent of power and influence enjoyed by Hamas and the PFLP in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It also indicates the acute differences between these two movements on the one hand and the Fatah Movement on the other over the dates of the general strikes in the territories and the PNC's recent resolutions, which adopted the partition resolution and UN Security Council Resolution No 242.

Palestinian elements supporting the PLO's mainstream said last night that the Unified National Leadership had decided not to declare a strike yesterday because the partition resolution is no longer viewed by the Palestinians as a tragic event following the PNC's adoption of that resolution. But Hamas still views the resolution as a disaster. Our correspondent says that owners of some shops in East Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and some other cities in the West Bank yesterday tried to open their shops, but masked youths threatened them and forced them to close their shops again. Our correspondent adds that the strike in Bethlehem, Bayt Jala, and Bayt Sahur yesterday was a partial strike and that quarrels and confrontations took place between pro-Hamas and pro-Fatah elements in some areas of the territories over the strike.

### Further on Strikes, Casualties in Territories

#### Update on 29 Nov General Strike

*TA3011131488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Nov 88 pp 1, 12*

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] Troops yesterday shot and wounded 19 Palestinians in the territories, one of them seriously, in clashes during a general strike called to mark the anniversary of the 1947 UN partition resolution. The IDF confirmed 12 of the casualties reported by Arab hospital officials.

The strike, the second in two days, was successfully enforced by activists of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in defiance of the PLO-backed Unified National Leadership of the Uprising.

The Unified Leadership refrained from calling a strike, following the PLO's acceptance of the partition resolution at this month's meeting of the Palestine National Council. November 29 has traditionally been a day of protest strikes and demonstrations in the territories.

Hamas activists shut down the central market in Ramallah after dawn services at local mosques, thus ensuring compliance with the strike call in other parts of town. In

Nabulus, residents said PFLP activists ordered a strike, claiming it was called by the Unified Leadership. The shutdown was also observed in Hebron and East Jerusalem, where shops closed after opening for a short while. In Bethlehem, a partial strike was observed.

Troops carried out raids on villages throughout the West Bank to make arrests and clear roadblocks, slogans and flags. The raids sparked clashes in some locations, and several Palestinians were wounded.

Curfews remained in force in Qalqilyah, Tulkarm, the Al-Am'ari refugee camp and three villages. Most population centres in the Gaza Strip were under curfew, including all refugee camps and much of Gaza.

Soldiers in Gaza shot a 17-year-old in the chest. He was taken to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon, where he was reported in serious condition.

Troops shot and wounded a woman and a man from Nazlah, near Jabalyah. According to the IDF spokesman, both were injured by plastic bullets after stoning incidents.

In Nabulus, eight people were wounded in clashes, most of them in the old city, according to hospital reports. Another two were wounded at the Balatah refugee camp, where two others were injured by beatings.

At Jaba', north of Nabulus, two people, including a 10 year-old girl, were wounded when villagers clashed with troops who raided the village. Another two persons were wounded during a raid on Tammun, north of Nabulus. One person was wounded at Bayt Lid, near Tulkarm, and another at Fawwar, near Hebron. [passage omitted]

Two Arabs tried to grab a soldier's gun near Ma'aleh Adumim, the IDF said. The soldier was hurt when he was dragged on the ground during the scuffle.

A petrol bomb was thrown at a bus near Bayt Immar, south of Bethlehem, but there were no casualities.

Troops raided 'Anabta north of Nabulus, shut off a generator and closed an olive press for two days, Palestinians said. An olive press in Bal'a, near Tulkarm, was ordered closed for four days, according to Palestinians. The measures were apparently taken as punishment for unrest. [passage omitted]

### 1 Jew, 2 Arabs Injured 30 Nov

*TA3011195388 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] A yeshiva student was slightly wounded by a stone thrown at him in the Old City of Jerusalem this morning. This afternoon an Israeli car was stoned on Salah al-Din Street in East Jerusalem. No one was hurt but two of the car's windshields were smashed.

At least two men were wounded in incidents in the territories. In Dayr al-Balah an 18-year-old youth was seriously injured. Another man was injured when hit by a stone in the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp.

### Stonings Reported; 2 Injured

*TA3011195388 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] A yeshiva student was slightly wounded by a stone thrown at him in the Old City of Jerusalem this morning. This afternoon an Israeli car was stoned on Salah al-Din Street in East Jerusalem. No one was hurt but two of the car's windshields were smashed.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 1 December reports: "An Israeli vehicle traveling near the village of 'Anata, north of Jerusalem, was stoned. The driver swerved and hit an electricity pylon. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that the driver, who was slightly wounded in the head, was transferred to Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus."]

### Anti-American Slogans in Nabulus

*TA0112110488 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 1 Dec 88 p 13*

[Report by Oren Kohen, Ya'ir Fidel, and Shim'on Elqabetz]

[Excerpts] There was relative quiet in the territories yesterday, 1 day after the 29 November anniversary during which there were many casualties. Four people were reportedly wounded in the Gaza Strip by IDF gunfire. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv THE NATION in English on 1 December in a report by Jeremy Kaplan and Louis Rapoport on page two, adds: "IDF patrols shot an 18-year-old man in Dayr al-Balah in the Gaza Strip, the army confirmed. Palestinian sources also reported gunshot victims in Gaza City, Al-Nusayrat, and Jabalyah and Al-Shati' refugee camps, for a total of five wounded in the Strip. Palestinians clashed with the IDF in 'Idnah village near Hebron, and 'Ayn Bayt Al-Ma', near Nabulus. Two Arabs were reported shot in each village, according to Arabs. The IDF said three were injured at 'Idnah and one at 'Ayn Bayt Al-Ma'."]

For the first time since the uprising in the territories began, slogans signed by the Unified National Command of the Uprising denouncing the United States appeared in Nabulus yesterday. "Reagan-Hitler" and "the United States' declaration of war on the Palestinian people will fail" were written in Arabic and English. [passage omitted]

### Curfews Lifted in Gaza Strip

*TA0112120588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] The remaining curfews in the Gaza Strip were lifted this morning. Most of the curfews imposed were lifted earlier in the week, and this morning those still in force in a number of refugee camps and two neighborhoods in the south were lifted.

### W. Bank Primary Schools Reopen

*TA0112123688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] Some 230,000 Arab primary school pupils in Judaea and Samaria went back to school this morning. Classes were halted several months ago in the wake of the uprising. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 1 Dec adds: "Schools were not reopened in Tulkarm and Qalqilyah because the towns are under curfew."]

Earlier, the head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria met with school principals and education experts and warned them that classes will not be allowed to continue if the schools are allowed to become focal points for unrest.

Our reporter says that pressure to reopen the schools has come from leading figures in the territories.

### 'Terrorist' Deported After Serving Prison Sentence

*TA3011115688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Convicted terrorist Mahmud Muhammad Darwish, one of the Fatah Force-17 commanders, was deported from Israel today after completing his prison sentence. Darwish, alias Abu Nur, was apprehended about 3 and ½ years ago aboard a ship sailing from Cyprus to Lebanon. He has been deported to Zurich under the aegis of the International Red Cross.

### Settlement Leader Not To Be Charged With Shooting

*TA3011101988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Nov p 1*

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] The State Attorney's Office yesterday rejected a police recommendation that Hebron activist Rabbi Moshe Levinger be charged with shooting to death a Palestinian during a stone-throwing incident in the West Bank town two months ago.

Claiming there was insufficient evidence, the State Attorney declined to prosecute. On September 30, Levinger opened fire after his car was stoned in downtown Hebron, allegedly causing the death of a shopkeeper and wounding another man.

### Jabalyah Teenager Sentenced to 15 Years in Prison

*TA2911152688 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Nov 88 p 4*

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] At the end of last week, the Gaza Strip Military Court convicted Hamdi Mahmud Abu-Sharq from the Jabalyah refugee camp of throwing explosive charges at IDF patrols and at an IDF encampment in Jabalyah and sentenced him to 15 years in prison. In all instances the charges exploded, but there were no casualties.

Captain 'Ofer Ben-Hayim, the military prosecutor, claimed in court that the 18-year-old had prepared the charges by himself in order to kill soldiers and had then tossed them at IDF patrols.

### Tax Agreement Signed With Italy; Trade To Benefit

*TA2811133188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Nov 88*

[Text] Israel and Italy today signed an agreement to prevent tax duplication. The agreement would prevent tax duplication on export products and goods from Israel to Italy and vice versa. This is in accordance with the new conditions existing with international trade for companies and individuals. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Alberto Bartoli, the Italian ambassador in Israel, who signed the agreement, expressed the hope that it would increase economic and industrial ties as well as mutual investments between the two countries.

### Envoy to Paris Meets Rocard on PNC Resolution

*TA2811144188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 28 Nov 88*

[Text] Israel's ambassador in Paris was received today by the French prime minister. He expressed Israel's concern over the possibility that France and other EEC countries may reach the wrong conclusion concerning the PNC resolutions.

Our Paris-based correspondent, Gid'on Kouts, reports that in the meeting Ambassador 'Ovadya Sofer noted that France has so far taken a cautious policy on this issue, and Israel would like this situation to continue. Prime Minister Michel Rocard said that he had taken note of these remarks and would convey them to French President Francois Mitterrand, as he is in charge of France's foreign policy.

## Norwegian UN Soldier Jailed for Heroin Smuggling

*TA3011102188 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 30 Nov p 1*

[Text] A Nazareth court has sentenced a Norwegian soldier serving with U.N. Forces in Lebanon to three years' imprisonment for smuggling heroin into Israel, a Norwegian defence official said yesterday.

Colonel Gullow Gjeseth said Bjoern Standal, 21, serving with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, admitted to the offence in court.

"We will discuss whether we should ask that he be allowed to serve his sentence in Norway," Gjeseth said.

Standal was arrested last month in Metulla with 500 grams of heroin. He was traveling with eight or nine Norwegian soldiers at the time, but none of the others was suspected of involvement.

## 'Large Wave' of AIDS Cases Predicted Next Year

*TA2811100188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Nov 88*

[Text] The AIDS center at Rehovot's Kaplan Hospital is warning about a large wave of patients next year. Initial signs of the expected increase in AIDS cases are already visible in the center's clinics, and Prof Ze'ev Hanzel, the head of the immunological unit at the hospital, warns against the total complacency prevailing in Israel with regard to AIDS prevention. He claims that headway made with the risk groups is also being lost.

The Health Ministry's information center is not active due to a lack of funds, and the number of people reporting to AIDS centers in Israel for examination is very small. According to Professor Hanzel, 70 AIDS patients—two-thirds of whom have died—have been identified in Israel so far. Most of the patients were either homosexuals or drug addicts. In addition, 400 carriers of the AIDS virus who have not come down with the disease have been identified. It is estimated that the number of virus carriers who are not even aware of their condition is 10 times larger. The Kaplan Hospital professor says the only way to fight the disease is through an information and education campaign aimed at the entire population.

## Health Ministry Reveals AIDS Statistics

*TA3011140288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Excerpt] Tomorrow is international AIDS day. Today the Health Ministry released data on the incidence of the disease in Israel:

So far, 71 cases of AIDS have been reported, 68 of which were male; 47 victims died of the virus. Rina Matzli'ah has more details:

Some 6,000 Israelis have voluntarily undergone the AIDS detection test, 375 of whom were found to be virus carriers. The Health Ministry estimates that at least 4,000 Israelis are virus carriers who will all develop the disease sooner or later if they do not die of other causes. [passage omitted]

### Crown Prince Hasan Visits Army General Command

*JN2911170988 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 nov 88*

[Text] Amman—Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, this afternoon visited the Jordanian Armed Forces General Command. He was received by Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; Staff General Fathi Abu Talib, the Armed Forces chief of staff, and a number of his assistants.

His highness the crown prince and regent met with the commander in chief for some time, during which they discussed issues of concern to the Armed Forces.

### Al-Rifa'i Briefs Senate on Economic Issues, State

*JN2311200088 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Nov 88*

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i met with the Senate president and members today. The prime minister reviewed with the Senate the ongoing Arab and international political developments, particularly what is related to the PNC proclamation of the Palestinian state and the dimensions of the pan-Arab stand adopted by Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn—the stand represented by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's recognition of this state and support for the trends of the Palestinian people at all levels.

The review also covered the economic, financial, and monetary measures that are considered a comprehensive national course aimed at serving the interests of the homeland and citizens, strengthening the national economy, and rectifying its march through limiting public spending, controlling expenditure, stopping luxurious and inflationary consumption, and concentrating on self-reliance and on increasing the national products.

Al-Rifa'i affirmed that thanks to the convergence of the citizens' efforts and to their awareness, devotion, and rallying around the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, Jordan will continue its march with firm steps, confident in the future.

### Central Bank Bans Demands for Foreign Currency

*JN2411102588 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24-25 Nov 88 p 1*

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Wednesday issued strict directives to commercial banks and financial institutions operating in the Kingdom to refrain from demanding from customers to provide cash in foreign currency to pay for commitments and provide cash margins in foreign currency upon opening letters of credit.

A CBJ memorandum circulated to banks and financial institutions said such demands were deemed as violations of CBJ regulations.

The CBJ said all banks and financial institutions should stop requesting customers to come up with cash in foreign currency and that the banks and institutions themselves have to undertake to provide the needed currency. It said banks should charge customers in Jordanian currency for cash margins upon opening letters of credit.

### Government Receives 5th Installment of Saudi Aid

*JN2411124888 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 24 Nov 88*

[Text] Finance Minister Dr Hanna 'Awdah said today that the Saudi Government has remitted 59.5 million U.S. dollars to the Central Bank of Jordan. This came in the form of the fifth payment of the Saudi share of Arab financial support decided by the Baghdad Arab summit. The finance minister told the Jordanian News Agency that the payment reflects the Saudi Government's keenness to fulfil its commitments to Jordan.

### Press Reaction to U.S. Refusal of 'Arafat Visa

#### 'Political Terrorism' Viewed

*JN2711090588 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Nov 88 p 1*

["A Word" column by the chief editor: "American Terrorism"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department's statement was a shock to human consciences and world sentiments which are tortured by arrogance, superiority, belligerence, and all the varied Nazi uglinesses.

This statement issued yesterday, which refuses to grant PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat a visa, was not only a shock, but a new collapse of all the ideals which the United States claims one should adhere to, including respect for international law.

In the name of combating terrorism, this decision was issued because the PLO threatens U.S. national security. Which type of terrorism in this universe, including wars, parallels the political terrorism practiced by the United States against the Palestinian people's rights? And which terrorism is greater than supporting and encouraging Israeli terrorism which is waging a war of annihilation against the defenseless and innocent—the prisoners of occupation and usurpation? What is the value of any stand or line which a superpower takes after this decision? And what credibility will all its promises and political activity have?

Yasir 'Arafat was behind the Palestinian transformations, behind issuing the PNC resolutions, and behind accepting Resolutions 242 and 338. He was the one responsible for the Cairo declaration renouncing acts of violence. The results of the PNC meetings, which expressed an honest desire for peace and represent the

positive Arab stand to reach a settlement, are the decisions that reached the conscience of the world and cornered Zionist extremism and U.S. bias. They provide new evidence that reveals the ugly face of the enemies of peace and people.

The statement indicates anew that the real terrorism is the terrorism practiced against nations by the United States and Israel. It also represents disdain toward all feelings and values, pushes the Palestinian people toward frustration, desperation, and violence, and places the region on the verge of explosion, thus leading it to an abyss.

### AL-RA'Y On 'Unfair' Ban

*JN2811103188 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Nov 88 pp 1, 18*

[Editorial: "Jordan Is a Force for the Palestine Question"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn—seen by the Arab nation as a defender of Arab dignity and loftiness—has taken the initiative to call for unified Arab action through which the Arabs will face the U.S. decision not to grant Yasir 'Arafat a visa to enter the United States. This decision aims at preventing the PLO Executive Committee chairman from speaking at the UN General Assembly rostrum and attending the discussions on the Palestine question. This collective action is represented by the call to move the discussions on the Palestine question to the European UN Headquarters in Geneva.

Thus, Jordan was the first to confront the unfair U.S. decision and translate its concern to highlight the Palestinian presence at the United Nations into an organized Arab action presenting a reasonable and objective solution to defeat this decision.

Washington should have respected its responsibilities resulting from hosting the permanent UN Headquarters on its territory. These responsibilities bind the United States not to obstruct arrival to UN Headquarters. Washington should have also responded to the PNC resolutions adopted in Algiers to activate the peace process in the Middle East. However, instead of doing this, the United States obstructed the Palestinian presence at the United Nations and turned its back on the Palestinian stand announced in Algiers. U.S. policy has proved once again that it is still captive to the pressures and directives of the Zionist lobby, which is working day and night to prevent the reactivation of the peace process in the region.

The firm, pan-Arab Jordanian stand, which 'Arafat praised upon arrival in Amman, is the natural outcome of the pan-Arab course laid down by His Majesty King Husayn to this country. This course is represented by Arab coordination about which Jordan is concerned, including coordination with the PLO. This course is also represented by the reaction to the unfair decisions made by others against the Palestinian will, including the recent U.S. decision.

Needless to say, Jordan, which aborted the pressures to which it was exposed to accept partial and separate solutions in the region, has a strong determination to participate in aborting practices aimed at obliterating the Palestine question and driving the Palestinian presence away from international quarters. This has been expressed through the talks between His Majesty King Husayn and 'Arafat, the telephone conversation between his majesty and President Mubarak yesterday, and the contacts Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri held with the Arab foreign ministers. This resulted in an agreement to embark on joint Arab action to move the discussions on the Palestine question to the European UN Headquarters in Geneva.

Jordan's commitment to support the Palestine question is firm, and the exercise of this commitment is vital and vigorous, embodied by His Majesty King Husayn's pledge that Jordan will remain a force in support of the Palestine question and the struggling Palestinian people until they regain their usurped territory and exercise their national rights on it.

### Calls Refusal 'Contradiction'

*JN2811150288 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Nov 88 p 20*

["An Arab Opinion" column: "From New York to the Palais des Nations" by Mahmud al-Rimawi]

[Text] The U.S. Administration's refusal to grant the PLO leader an entry visa confirms that this administration has not learned anything except how to oppose facts and reality. In its attempts to satisfy the terrorist state in Tel Aviv by any means, including illegitimate ones, this administration, represented by the State Department, does not give a hoot for international unanimity.

Previously, Washington tried to close the PLO's office in the United Nations despite protests from everywhere against this abnormal attempt, which represented a flagrant violation of the headquarters agreement and interference in the affairs of the international organization. However, these attempts were doomed to failure when U.S. courts refuted that position and ordered that the PLO's office remain where it is. The U.S. Administration is now repeating the same mistake without learning a lesson from its past behavior.

The repetition of the gross U.S. mistake takes place at a time when the overwhelming majority of the international community shows an understanding of the soundness of the position expressed by PNC resolutions. Despite this, Washington insists on ignoring recent

developments and refusing to shoulder its responsibilities as a superpower for reaching a just settlement in the region based on the interests of all parties.

While awaiting the position to be made by the UN General Secretariat on this flagrant U.S. interference in its affairs, one notices, as some western papers stated yesterday, that Washington allows the PLO representative and the head of the PLO's Political Department to enter and leave New York freely, but prevents the PLO leader himself from coming to New York, as if 'Arafat represents an organization other than that of Al-Tarazi and Qaddumi. Washington not only violates international law, but also contradicts its previous behavior. Such a contradiction is unworthy of a superpower.

It is noteworthy to mention Jordan's wise and courageous reply to this hostile U.S. position. It expressed desire to move deliberations on the Palestine question from the UN headquarters in New York to the Palais des Nations in Geneva. This position, voiced by King Husayn, represents a practical and intelligent reply to U.S. interference and honestly reflects the spirit of Arab solidarity and cooperation against deliberate U.S. attempts to harm the Arab presence in the international organization. Undoubtedly, a wise step in this direction will brand Washington and Tel Aviv as violators of international law and a source of threat to world security and peace.

## TIMES: 'True Colors' Revealed

*JN2811093888 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Nov 88 p 4*

[Editorial: "Shame on the U.S."]

[Text] The U.S. State Department's refusal to grant PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat a visa to enable him to travel to New York and address the United Nations General Assembly is impolite, miscalculated and an open slap in the face of all peace-loving nations.

To accuse 'Arafat, who has guided his people's struggle for independence through a moderate course, of supporting terrorism and thus of being ineligible to travel to the "land of the free" is at best uninhibited hypocrisy on the part of a country whose name would not survive even a casual scrutiny of the international record of political terrorism for decades.

Secretary of State George Shultz, who is said to have taken the decision on his own, no doubt urged on by his Zionist friends, has been claiming over the years that he was pushing the Middle East peace process forward. We wonder in which direction is Shultz now pushing that process. Certainly, his decision only pleases the Israeli leaders who adamantly reject all peace bids, even those advocated by Shultz himself.

Perhaps Shultz was exercising his power to present the Israeli leaders with one parting gift. While the entire world, including American allies and friends, were waiting to hear 'Arafat's offer of peace—particularly now that he has the mandate of the Palestine National Council and even the endorsement of hardline Palestinians and Arabs—Shultz opted to defy his own advisers at the State Department and went solely on his decision without even the president having a say in it. No wonder, Shim'on Peres, Israel's "advocate of peace," was quick to respond with his "appreciation of the decision."

Now that the U.S. has shown its true colours, it is up to the United Nations, under constant financial pressure from the U.S., to decide whether or not to move the General Assembly session on Palestine to Geneva to enable the leader of the Palestine liberation movement to address the world community.

We cannot but recall what 'Arafat warned when he declared an independent state at the PNC session in Algiers earlier this month. "I can always come back to the PNC and tell them that our bid for peace has fallen on deaf ears." If that happens, God forbid, and the Middle East edges again towards violence, then the U.S., the U.S. alone, will bear the brunt of the blame.

## Denial Called 'Eye-Opener'

*JN3011144088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Nov 88 p 4*

[Editorial: "More Israeli Than Israelis"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration's pronouncement that its refusal to grant an entry visa to Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat to address the United Nations General Assembly is firm and final is not just a statement. It should be taken and treated as an American policy document which states, not in so many words as in deeds, that Washington is so closely cuddled with Israel that it has no respect or consideration for the interests and positions of its own allies, leave alone the many Third World countries which have appealed to the U.S. to reconsider its stand.

Such a policy declaration, coupled with the dawning realisation that the U.S. has no intention whatsoever of engaging itself in any realistic effort for peace in the Middle East, should be an eye-opener to American allies, who have just seen Washington openly flouting the basic agreement under which the United Nations is headquartered in American territory.

The U.S. has staked its position firmly and clearly. The question remains: Where do we go from here? Regardless of the outcome of efforts to move the special U.N. session on Palestine from New York to Geneva, the fact remains that any meaningful progress towards peace in the Middle East based on a just, fair and comprehensive

Arab-Israeli settlement will remain elusive as long as the U.S. extends all-out, blind support to Israel and tries to be more Israeli than Israelis themselves.

Sooner or later, the scenario will turn into one of the U.S., Israel and a handful of their allies pitted against the rest of the world. Lines will have to be drawn as to what extent each individual country is willing to go in the political and diplomatic confrontation.

It is time Washington did some hard thinking and decided whether such a scenario will be compatible with American interests, whether on the official level or otherwise.

But one thing is certain; the more Washington clings on to its intransigence and maintains deaf ears to the voice of reason and justice, the better the climate for hardened positions and extremism will be.

### 'Exposed U.S. Bias' Viewed

*JN2811111088 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Nov 88 p 1*

[Editorial: "The Unfair U.S. Decision and the Required Stand"]

[Text] Proceeding from His Majesty King Husayn's unwavering fraternal stands toward his Palestinian brothers and Jordan's commitment toward Arab causes, particularly the Palestine question, His Majesty issued his directives to the foreign minister to hold contacts with Arab foreign ministers to coordinate stands and contact UN member states in order to transfer the special meeting on the Palestine question from the UN headquarters in New York to the European headquarters in Geneva following the U.S. secretary of state's decision not to grant an entry visa to Yasir 'Arafat to deliver Palestine's speech before the General Assembly.

The U.S. decision, as affirmed by His Majesty King Husayn, seeks to strangle the moderate Palestinian voice, the voice of justice and peace which are sought by everyone in our region. The U.S. decision was also unfair, disappointing, and against all expectations, particularly since it came in the wake of the PNC positive and historic resolutions adopted in its recent session. These resolutions received global welcome and everyone testified that they are positive, reconstructive, and form a strong push toward ending the stalemate in the peace efforts in the Middle East.

His Majesty King Husayn, who works relentlessly to build an Arab stand to support the Palestine question and Palestinian legitimate rights, has asserted his determination to work for common Arab action. Within the context of this determination, his majesty contacted His Excellency President Husni Mubarak by telephone yesterday and they exchanged views on steps to be taken in light of the unfair U.S. decision.

No doubt the agreement of the Jordanian and Palestinian sides during their talks yesterday to coordinate their stands and efforts in support of the Palestine question and the legitimate struggle of its people will add a new strong pillar to the edifice of the common Arab action in support of the positive Palestinian stance in the international arena.

The unfair U.S. Administration's decision to prevent 'Arafat from presenting the Palestinian position before the international community comes as a complete response and submission to Zionist pressure, a blatant bias toward Israeli aggression, and hostility to the legitimate Arab rights instead of welcoming the positive Palestinian resolutions, which had been a U.S. demand in the past, to pave the way before peaceful efforts in the region.

The exposed U.S. bias toward Israel is bound to obstruct all international efforts to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This bias is also regarded as a blatant violation of the United States' pledges and inappropriate for a superpower which should have respected its obligations toward the United Nations.

In view of this situation, collective Arab action should be taken in coordination with all peace-loving forces to pressure the U.S. Administration to adopt a neutral position toward the Arab-Israeli conflict and allow Yasir 'Arafat to visit New York to deliver Palestine's speech before world public opinion from the rostrum of the United Nations—considered a sanctuary for all nations and states.

### U.S. 'Impervious' to 'Realism'

*JN2811161388 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Nov 88 p 2*

["The Last Station" column by Mu'nis al-Razzaz: "Message to the White House"]

[Text] Writing in this column a few days back, I said that allowing 'Arafat onto UN territory should test the ability of the United States to pursue a new line on the Paleestinian question, especially against the backdrop of the PNC resolutions.

Predictably, U.S. policy flopped and barred 'Arafat from the United States. Indeed, those who have for years now been looking up to the White House have grown listless. Those who have been lending their ears to White House envoys and others who have sought to talk American administrations into shifting position on the Palestinian question have been similarly bored.

Open as they are, American vistas have no room for us. Nor is the distress caused us by the Americans in short supply. To the best of our knowledge, there is no companion in Washington with whom the Arabs, or any other tormented people on earth may find comfort.

In its most recent session, the PNC has produced a downpour of peace. But not one drop seems to have reached Washington, which perceives it as mere mist. Washington has likewise proved impervious to the realism shown by the PNC.

One wonders: Exactly what does the United States want? Does it seek to drive Palestinians to desperation and the Arabs to extremism? Does it seek to convince Arabs that salvation does not lie in the peace option?

## EC Welcome of PLO Move 'Not Sufficient'

*JN2411082488 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Nov 88 p 1, 12*

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Presence at the United Nations"]

[Text] Shamir and Peres pledged to exert maximum efforts to prevent the PLO from participating in the discussions of the United Nations General Assembly [UNGA]. The PLO Paris representative said the PLO will exert efforts for the independent Palestinian state to be accepted as a member at the United Nations. In light of this, it seems that a large-scale diplomatic battle will erupt at UNGA, at a time when the French foreign minister is saying that his country will continue efforts so that the EC will reach a common and advanced stand to support the Palestinian cause.

It is apparent that the Israeli attempt to dwarf the Palestinian presence at UNGA and prevent it from taking part in the debate on the Palestinian question is in itself an aggressive attempt and a new sign that Israel's strategy to obliterate the features of the question and prevent any progress toward a just and comprehensive solution to it is a firm and unchanged strategy.

It should also be noted that all peace-loving forces in the world are called upon to thwart the Israeli attempt and provide the opportunity for the Palestinian presence so that it can assume responsibility and perform its role from the rostrum of the international organization.

The EC is also called upon to respond to the courageous French role and take a common action to expedite the convening of an international conference to bring about genuine peace in the region. The EC welcome of the recent PLO political statement is not sufficient in itself.It still needs to be translated into a collective European act of pressure to force Israel to accept the march of peace and persuade the United States to play a positive role in this direction.

There is no doubt, however, that the Arabs, before others, are called upon to launch an intensive diplomatic drive to support the Palestinian presence at the United Nations. As usual, Jordan was the vanguard to pave the way for this step through effective media moves, led by His Majesty King Husayn, who told one of the U.S. television networks a few days ago that after its latest political statement in Algiers, the PLO can no longer be asked to offer anything else.

Jordan, which has long endeavored to maintain the Palestinian identity and highlight the Palestinian presence in international forums, is resolutely determined to continue doing so, so that this presence can play its role and shoulder its responsibility at the United Nations.

## Paper on King's Baghdad Visit, Support for PLO

*JN2511102088 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Nov 88 pp 1, 14*

[Editorial: "Recent Developments and the Aspired Arab Stand"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's working visit to fraternal Iraq yesterday and the talks he held with his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn fall within the framework of the policy of brotherly coordination and consultations which Jordan is eager to pursue in order to achieve Arab solidarity and unity against the challenges and dangers facing our Arab nation.

Consultations and coordination among Arab brothers acquire extreme importance at the current stage in particular in light of the recent developments in the Arab arena, especially the PNC decisions in Algiers which have received worldwide welcome and support.

Within this framework, in an interview with the BBC, his majesty affirmed that the responsible stand adopted by the PNC serves the cause and places it within its correct faremwork, and places others in this world, headed by Israel, before their responsibilities toward peace.

The Palestinian side has offered all that it can and all that the world asked it to. Now the ball is in the other court. The world states now must move as far as the PLO and the PNC have moved. They should acknowledge that the Palestinian side has acted with positive responsibility and that its stand is honorable and constructive. The world states now should exercise pressure to secure the required response to this stand in order to reach the aspired peace. In light of these developments, it becomes necessary to build a unified and effective Arab stand to pressure the world states to complement this positive Palestinian stand with an international move to push the peace march forward in this area, which constitutes one of the most dangerous hotbeds of tension which can explode anytime.

Out of its pan-Arab commitment, Jordan continues to play its role as a bridge of communication and solidarity among Arab brothers. Thanks to King Husayn's relentless efforts, Jordan has managed to lay down the basis of accord and reconciliation which was entrenched at the

Amman summit. On this basis, Jordan continues to exert efforts and hold contacts with all Arab brothers in order to reach an Arab solidarity to confront dangers and challenges.

While viewing with optimism and hope the results of his majesty's talks with his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, we hope that the Arab contacts, the center of which is Jordan, will achieve solidarity and an effective Arab stand serving the pan-Arab interest and our just causes.

## Columnist Examines Causes of Economic Crisis

*JN2311111588 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic*
*23 Nov 88 p 18*

["Highlights" column by Dr Fahd al-Fanik: "No, Not Among the Causes of the Economic Crisis"]

[Text] Many people, both inside and outside Jordan, have analyzed the economic crisis and attributed it directly to political or administrative causes to make it easily understood. This is so in the case of those who considered the crisis an unexpected surprise and went about searching for its direct causes.

The political cause, to which the foreign press often referred, was the decision to sever ties with the West Bank dated 31 July 1988 and the allegation that the Palestinians at once transferred their dinars and dollars, which resulted in pressure on the dinar.

The administrative measure which people often mention as a direct cause of the crisis was the Central Bank's decisions or some of them, such as currency control restrictions, the floating of the interest rate on the dinar, and the floating of the exchange rate of the dinar.

These are not the causes of the crisis. The severance of ties with the West Bank was in response to the persistence of Jordanians, Palestinians, and Arabs, and was received with satisfaction on all sides. The credit goes to the uprising. It was this decision which made the declaration of the Palestinian state and the international recognition of it possible. Therefore, it is unlikely that someone had acted purposely against the dinar for political reasons.

The Central Bank's measures did not cause the crisis but have come as a result of it and as a means of tackling it. We recall that the crisis began on 2 May 1988 when there was a rush to buy the dollar and its price at the money-changers went up by 10 percent in one day. This phenomenon recurred on 2 June 1988. This time the demand for the dollar was stronger and its price went up even higher.

The first measure by the Central Bank was taken on 26 June 1988. If the monetary crisis had emerged and expressed itself at such an early date, in other words 3 months before the severance of links with the West Bank and 2 months before the issuance of the Central Bank measures, then it is inconceivable to consider these two factors as the causes of the crisis.

The movement toward the dollar has come as a result of cumulative economic considerations and incentives and in accordance with a reading of the general budget conditions, the Central Bank balance sheet, the amount of foreign currency reserves, and the speculations on the trend which would be taken by the exchange rate. All these factors indicated the existence of a belief within the market in the need to devalue the dinar even before the government became convinced and adopted the present policy.

The dollars which the Jordanians bought and kept at home or in their bank accounts inside or outside Jordan still exist and belong to Jordan. There is no way of using them in the future except by transferring them to Jordan. Everything depends on the economic circumstances as seen and understood by the people and on the return of public confidence.

### Ja'ja' on Sfayr's Initiative, Reforms, Syrians

*NC0112075488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has affirmed that the success of Patriarch Sfayr's initiative depends on Syria. In an interview with AL-NAHAR newspaper today, he explained that the Lebanese Forces will support the candidates Patriarch Sfayr will propose, pointing out that the Lebanese forces still have reservations regarding the nomination of former President Franjiyah and Deputy Dahir, but regard the nomination of Raymond Iddih as an attempt to achieve a concrete solution.

In his interview with AL-NAHAR, Dr Ja'ja' said that the alliance with General Michel 'Awn concerns a unified political plan. He denied that a clash might take place between the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Forces.

He rejected the idea of discussing political reforms under a foreign military presence. Regarding the 1943 formula, Dr Ja'ja' said that the Lebanese Forces do not want development of this formula but its concrete amendment through dialogue among the Lebanese to work out an alternative system. He affirmed that the basic problem is the Syrian military presence.

Regarding his opinion about the proclamation of a Palestinian state, he said that this will not change events very much. But, he said, the Syrian-Palestinian conflict will intensify, because the proclamation of the Palestinian state at this time is regarded a victory for Yasir 'Arafat.

Dr Ja'ja' said: We think that Syria is an occupying country and is present in Lebanon on this basis. It is considered this also by the Michel 'Awn Council of Ministers. He added: We think that before discussing anything, particularly what was once called reforms, the Syrians and all foreign armies must leave Lebanon. The Council of Ministers is of the same opinion. Therefore, I see no differences in the basic views of the government and the Lebanese Forces.

Dr Ja'ja' affirmed that he does not support presidential elections that would bring a president tied to Syria or completely subordinate to it. Instead, he supports elections for a president who would abide by Lebanese principles, possess dignity and character permitting him to exercise his rule as necessary, work for the removal of the Syrians and all the other foreign forces from Lebanon, and restore normal political life in the country.

[In its report on the Ja'ja' interview with AL-NAHAR, Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0615 GMT on 1 December adds the following: "The Lebanese Forces commander affirmed that the removal by the Lebanese Forces of former President Amin al-Jumayyil from northern Al-Matn region was not a tactical decision but a move to unite the Christian community. We could no longer accept military pluralism. He intimated that the former president helped us to remove him by not having a political plan, horizon, or proposal."]

### Syrians Reportedly Execute Gunmen in W. Beirut

*NC3011200488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] According to as yet unconfirmed security reports, the Syrian forces have executed a number of gunmen who put up resistance during the Syrian raiding operations in West Beirut.

In another development, AFP has reported that Tehran invited [Chamber Speaker] Husayn al-Husayni and Nabih Birri to Iran. However, they turned down the invitation on the pretext that any definition of ties between Iran and the Lebanese Shi'ites should pass through the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council.

### Syrians Continue 'Storming Campaign' in Beirut

*NC0112103188 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] The Syrian Arab Forces continue their storming campaign and search for weapons in West Beirut today. These forces yesteday expanded this campaign they started three days ago to disarm Beirut. Their campaign included the areas of Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, Wadi Abu Jamil, Al-Awza'i, Bi'r Hasan, Al-Numwayrah, Al-Musaytibah, and Burj Abu Haydar. They confiscated a military truckload of various types of weapons and closed three military centers in Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq. Meanwhile, complete calm prevailed in Beirut's southern suburb as the Syrian forces continued to take security measures.

Groups of the Syrian special units deployed in several areas in Beirut yesterday. A force commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Nassar Faraj went to the areas of Burj Abu Haydar and Al-Musaytibah while another force commanded by Major 'Abd al-Latif went to the area of Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq up to the contact lines. Another force commanded by Major Muhammad proceeded to the Al-Awza'i area, another force to Al-Nuwayrah, another to the Hursh Bi'r Hasan area, while yet another went to Wadi Abu Jamil. Lt Col Amir Talli and Captain Burhan participated in the storming operations.

In Al-Musaytibah, Lt Col Nassar established a Syrian force in an office the Amal Movement had handed over to Syrian forces 2 days ago. This office is now a Syrian military position. Lt Col Nassar then went to Burj Abu Haydar and Salim Salam Boulevard where a number of houses were stormed and a quantity of arms and ammunition confiscated from a building behind the Iranian cultural center.

In the area of Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, Major 'Abd al-Latif confiscated a large quantity of arms, including RPG-7's and ammunition for 12.7-mm machineguns and rifles—all enough for a military truckload. Two military centers for the

Amal Movement and Hizballah were closed, and a number of gunmen were arrested. Another quantity of arms was confiscated in Hursh Bi'r Hasan.

## Hizballah's Shaykh Fadlallah Interviewed

*JN0112113488 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic*
*1 Dec 88 p 14*

[Interview with Hizballah spiritual leader Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by Ma'ruf al-Da'uq in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Da'uq] In your opinion, what is the reason for the renewal of clashes betwen the Amal Movement and Hizballah at this particular time?

[Fadlallah] We are still studying the background of this reckless, crazy war beacuse we can find no justification for it, particularly as part of the political situation present in the so-called the Islamic or national zone, which needs great cohesion and unity. Hence, we are trying to trace the fingers of Israeli intelligence trying to revenge the "Al-Hurr al-'Amili" [suicide] operation in an attempt to exhaust the area that supplies the Islamic resistance with men. We may also try to discover some background that may be part of the calculations in some international states of affairs involved in arranging the Lebanese issue. We are still studying the background of this meaningless war, which we vehemently denounce and on which we do not yet have a clear view.

[Al-Da'uq] How can the clashes between Hizballah and the Amal Movement be tackled to achieve final reconciliation?

[Fadlallah] The best way to reconcile the Amal Movement and Hizballah is to form a committee of both parties' leaders to study the outstanding problems regarding the exchange of accusations over assassinations and similar matters or regarding disputed political issues such as the UN forces, Resolution No. 425, and some matters pertaining to the political situation. I believe such differences can only be resolved by a meeting of a leaders' committee to discuss issues in detail. Such a committee will also be authorized to make decisions reached during discussions and dialogue.

Naturally, such an approach concerning the arrangement of a mechanism for reconciliation may need support from Syria and Iran because both can exert great pressures on this or that party. Both of them also have a good position in this regard.

[Al-Da'uq] Do you support remarks by Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Islamic Shi'ite Council in Lebanon, to the effect that reconciliation between the Amal Movement and Hizballah needs effective Iranian efforts, or are domestic efforts sufficient to realize this reconciliation?

[Fadlallah] I do not believe this issue needs such efforts because in fact there is an Iranian and Syrian move in this regard. However, the obstacles facing reconciliation may be domestic rather than regional. We in Lebanon may always experience interaction between the domestic and regional. I do not view the matter in the way he made in his statement.

[Al-Da'uq] The Amal Movement says Hizballah fabricated these clashes to gain a political foothold in the existing political equation. What is your opinion about this matter?

[Fadlallah] I believe this is part of the propaganda designed to create a fog around this war and the party that began it. I can assert that these people [Hizballah] did not begin the war and that they have more than one room open to them in Lebanon should they wish to be engaged.

[Al-Da'uq] Do you expect the clashes to stop at this limit, or will they extend to other areas, particularly the South?

[Fadlallah] We are working with all the sincere ones to find a solution to this tragedy. We hope we will succeed soon.

[Al-Da'uq] Is there any connection between the current regional events and Lebanese events?

[Fadlallah] I think that the Lebanese arena is a place where all Arab events can be publicized. We cannot rule out the possibility that what is happening is part of the repercussions of new Arab developments, a sort of creation of dramatic events to divert attention from certain political and ideological events elsewhere. [passage omitted]

[Al-Da'uq] It is noted that there is a dual U.S. move in Lebanon. Can you explain this unclear move?

[Fadlallah] The Americans are not objective in their statements. They try to create psychological conditions to benefit them in rearranging certain conditions. Moreover, I do not think that they are playing a dual role. All of their moves are a continuation of the plan that they began with the Syrian-U.S. agreement. I imagine that all of these developments and exaggerations are part of the moves engendered by the [Syrian-U.S.] agreement with the aim of preparing Lebanese conditions for something. [passage omitted]

[Al-Da'uq] Do you expect new developments to occur in east Beirut and a divorce between the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Forces, or do you think that the situation will continue as is?

[Fadlallah] We are watching developments in the Syrian-U.S. agreement to confirm certain things that we are sensing. We feel that what is happening in east Beirut is part of these developments. We also feel that the future will prove that there are problems in the way the cards are currently dealt.

[Al-Da'uq] Some say that the current attempts to hold presidential elections in Lebanon are an attempt to bypass the Syrian-U.S. agreement in this regard. Do you think that these attempts will succeed?

[Fadlallah] I imagine that all attempts to bypass the Syrian-U.S. agreement are wishful thinking that takes the form of attempts. The only fact in the Lebanese arena is the Syrian-U.S. agreement because of the nature of the political situation. Everything else is a side issue. [passage omitted]

[Al-Da'uq] Do you expect Israel to intensify its attacks on the south and exploit the infighting in Beirut and the southern suburb?

[Fadlallah] Israel is one of the states that possesses great resources to exploit unstable conditions in Lebanon, especially the circumstances of the resistance. Indeed, we might consider the siege around the resistance the work of Israeli intelligence, which is trying to put many persons in several positions.

[Al-Da'uq] Is the attempt to assassinate the South Lebanon Army commander, General Antoine Lahd, a message to certain Lebanese groups?

[Fadlallah] It could be a message, and it could be the result of a plan rearranging future Lebanese conditions.

[Al-Da'uq] Do you expect the issue of the hostages in Lebanon to be reactivated, especially since you exerted appreciated efforts in the past to release the hostages?

[Fadlallah] I have already said that the issue is now outside the local framework and within the framework of international relations. This is what we hear from the Islamic Republic of Iran every now and then concerning certain conditions for speaking with its friends in Lebanon as a means of pressure to release the hostages.

[Al-Da'uq] Have you been contacted again by outside parties to mediate in the issue of releasing the hostages?

[Fadlallah] There have not been any new contacts oustide the previous ones.

### Lahd 'Finally' Passes 'Critical Stage'

*NC2811115888 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Nov 88*

[Excerpt] The latest reports from Rambam Hospital, where Staff Major General Antoine Lahd, South Lebanese Army commander, is being treated after the unsuccessful attempt to assassinate him, say that Maj Gen Lahd's physical condition is constantly improving. He is recovering naturally, according to the doctors treating him. These doctors stressed that Maj Gen Lahd has finally overcome the critical stage and that he is recovering more quickly than expected. [passage omitted]

### Israelis Fly Reconnaissance Over South 1 Dec

*NC0112061188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0543 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] This morning our correspondent in the South reported that an Israeli reconnaissance plane has been flying over the central sector since this morning.

### Israeli Artillery Fire, Other Activities Reported

*NC0112065188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] It has been reported that Israeli occupation forces pounded the town of Bra'shit with 14 artillery shells at midnight last night, hitting some houses in the town. The area around the town of Qilya has also come under artillery shelling from the positions held by the occupation forces in Al-Ahmadiyah. Some four shells fell on the western part of the town, while other shells fell on the Al-Litani River course. The area around the town of Maydun and Birkat Jabbur was also come under fire from tank guns.

Meanwhile, Israeli motorized forces have been monitored by a resistance group on the roads in Marj 'Uyun, Al-Dallashah, the Kawkaba hills, Al-Tayyibah, Hula, Markaba and Tallusah. Military helicopters have also been seen hovering above the armored convoys as they moved along.

The position held by Lahd's militia in Zummarayya opened heavy-caliber machinegun fire toward the Mimis sector for 30 minutes. An Israeli force entered the occupied town of Shab'a yesterday and asked the town's inhabitants and mukhtar to form a local committee linked with the civil administration to recruit a number of youths in the militia. According to information received from the town, the inhabitants rejected the Israeli request.

Meanwhile, UNIFIL forces in the occupied areas have operated motorized and foot patrols, while security sources have reported that Israeli forces launched a wide-scale combing operation on the Lebanese-Israeli border close to Al-Naqurah and 'Alma al-Sha'b, firing scores of flares over Al-Naqurah for 2 hours.

In another development, an Israeli gunboat opened fire at a Lebanese tourist boat that was on its way from Al-Sarafand Harbor to Tyre Harbor. The Israeli gunboat missed it and then retreated after Amal gunmen opened machinegun fire on it.

## Prime Minister Assesses Economic Production

*JN2411163288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Nov 88*

[Excerpt] Sponsored by struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Republic, a festival was staged this morning by the Executive Bureau of the General Federation of Workers Unions at the 16 November hall of the General Federation of Trade Unions to mark the 18th anniversary of the blessed Corrective Movement. During the function, honors were awarded to ingenious workers, work teams, and institutions country-wide, that have exhibited initiative in stepping up production and securing production requirements.

Deputizing for struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad in sponsoring the festival was Comrade Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Also in attendance were People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, party regional command members, members of the central command of the National Progressive Front, cabinet ministers, representatives of popular organizations, and professional trade union presidents.

The prime minister gave an address in which he said: I am delighted and honored to represent His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on this occasion to acknowledge the complexes that have won productive and economic contests held to honor workers, technicians, and engineers who make up the true capital of a country that has vowed to make self-reliance an expression of the will of the working class and masses to transform the lofty economic, social, and political edifice into a developing, distinguished force confronting all challenges.

Al-Zu'bi added: We met a year ago at the national creativity conference and together declared, in implementation of the directives of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, the start of a march based on certain principles, premises, and programs to consolidate the foundations of the scientific and productive society where theory and practice interact and the underpinnings of responsibility mix in the melting pot of all-round practice and through which the results of a long productive process connect with policies directed at marshalling the country's human and material resources into a common course.

He emphasized that the government has shown particular interest in the recommendations of the national creativity conference, with meetings being held with the president and members of the federation of workers' trade unions and the competent authorities. A followup committee was set up to see to the implementation of the recommendations, the prime minister said. As a matter of fact, added Al-Zu'bi, the direct handling of these recommendtions has become a matter of daily practice for the government. These recommendations, the prime minister said, are typcial of a distintive, productive shift that extends as much to the cultural, scientific, research, and discovery disciplines as it does to areas of agricultural investment. Further, they upgrade the existing industrial and political exporting efficiency, which has become the focus of foreign trade for the government.

The prime minister added: We have made clear steps toward rectifying the systems and frames of work as well as inter-department and corporation relationships. Through these steps, we have boosted our ability to do away with red tape and bureaucratic concepts, with the result that enhancing the role of scientific research and scientific research centers is becoming ever clearer and more pronounced. He pointed out that the positive change has reflected itself in methodology, adding: The emerging positive statistics give credibility to the new approach and are being felt in state activities and productivity of the public sector, which we highly value as a trend setter for the national economy. Al-Zu'bi said: Water and agricultural projects have taken off and agriculture now has greater acreage at its disposal. There has also been regular followup action to secure the requirements of agricultural production according to schedule.

On extraction industries, the prime minister emphasized that investment has made headway in gas and oil production, leading to an improved electric power output and food supply situation. Our advocacy of worker self-reliance and creativity testifies to our immense trust in our people and their toiling children as well as our sure conviction that our country has enormous potential that has not yet been utilized, which makes us confident that no engineer, executive, worker, or peasant will spare himself for the homeland and that the country will further reward its children.

Al-Zu'bi added: It is not in vain that we raise the slogan: Each to be rewarded according to his effort and production, it being the key to social justice which we espouse. As we urge our toilers to exert themselves, we are actually asking asking them to shoulder responsibilities boldly and determinedly. Self-reliance, added the prime minister, is the high road to a creative life. This slogan's economic, social, and political aim manifests itself in the masses, which have faith in their boundless resources. Our people have consistently proved that they are determined to make every effort and sacrifice and confront all challenges under the leadership of the struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

## Prime Minister Receives Jordanian Energy Minister

*JN2311194288 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Nov 88*

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Dr Hisham al-Khatib, Jordanian energy and mineral resources minister, at 1300 today. Electricity Minister Kamil al-Baba attended. The meeting dealt with ties of cooperation between the two fraternal countries, particularly in the energy field, and means to strengthen and promote them.

## Power Cooperation Pact Signed

*JN2411194288 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 24 Nov 88*

[Text] Damascus, 24 Nov (SANA)—An agreement for power linkage between Syria and Jordan, joint coordination in the field of linkage studies among Arab eastern countries and Turkey, and the exchange of expertise to exploit and maintain electric networks and power plants was signed here today. The agreement was signed on the Syrian Arab side by Electricity Minister Engineer Kamil al-Baba and on the Jordanian side by Dr Hisham al-Khatib, minister of energy and mineral wealth, at the conclusion of the meetings of the joint Syrian-Jordanian subcommittee.

The agreement provides for periodical exchange of information on plans to promote the power systems in both countries and cooperation in the field of rehabilitating and training national cadres at the available training centers in both countries. The agreement also provides for the exchange of studies and statistics to improve the performance of networks and enhance the exploitation of new energy sources like wind energy and oil shale.

The two sides also agreed to conduct a preliminary study on various available alternatives to the electicity linkage between the two countries, including strengthening the current linkage, which depends on power transmission lines with a capacity of 230 kilovolts between the Al-Shaykh Miskin power plant in southern Syria and the Irbid power plant in northern Jordan. They agreed to discuss the possibility of establishing a power transmission line with a capacity of 400 kilovolts to link the two major power plants in Damascus and Amman to serve as part of the Arab eastern countries' power linkage network.

Meanwhile, Dr Hisham al-Khatib and his delegation left Damascus at the conclusion of a several-day visit to Syria. In a predeparture statement, Al-Khatib expressed satisfaction with the results of this visit—aimed at promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of power energy and mineral wealth.

## Government Source Hails Egypt's Palestine Stand

*PM2811162288 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Nov 88 pp 1-2*

[Unattributed report: "Damascus Welcomes Cairo's Recognition of Palestinian State"]

[Excerpts] Cairo, Algiers, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Egypt and Algeria yesterday announced their resumption of diplomatic relations. A joint statement issued in Cairo and Algiers said the decision will take effect immediately. [passage omitted] Meanwhile, Syria yesterday described Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state as a positive step taken despite Israeli pressure.

One high-ranking Syrian Government official stated that Damascus regards Egypt's recent steps recognizing the Palestinian state and reaffirming the Egyptian Government's commitment to the Arab Joint Defense Pact as positive.

The source added: This Egyptian attitude is a positive development, despite Israel's attempts to impose its will and to restrict Egypt in line with the Camp David agreements. Diplomatic observers say that the Syrian media have recently considerably reduced their criticism of the Egyptian Government. This, they add, is the first sign of a positive Syrian response to an Egyptian stance since the Camp David agreements were signed in 1978. [passage omitted]

## Government To 'Shake Hands' With 'Honest' Arabs

*JN3011102588 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Damascus, 30 Nov (SANA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says in its editorial today that Damascus has made pan-Arabism the criterion of its dealings with others and has placed, and is placing, pan-Arab interests above all other considerations. This has enabled it to rise above the wounds that were caused by this or that individual or quarter.

The paper adds: Syria's pursuance of a firm, principled policy concerning the conflict with the enemy has cost it many sacrifices and exposed it to the vengeance of those who have turned to defeatism. Thus, Syria has become a target for U.S.-Zionist plotting.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that the course of concessions, defeatism, and separate deals has only led to weakness and divisions, involved the Arabs in bitter sideshows, and made it difficult to secure Arab rights. Moreover, the abandonment of rights has increased Israel's aggressiveness and impudent expansionism. For this reason, Syria has opposed capitulation, considering it a source of further disasters for Arabs, which casts doubt over their future.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Damascus has not set any condition for its relations with others other than the service of the Palestine question and the liberation of Arab territory. Syria will shake the hand that is extended with sincere and noble national and pan-Arab intentions. Its heart is open to all honest Arab strugglers for the sake of resisting the enemy's ambitions and expansionist designs.

## Afghanistan

### Generals Reject Allegations on Use of Toxins

*LD3011214888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] The Western media's baseless and unfounded propaganda alleging that Afghanistan's Armed Forces and Soviet aircraft have used chemical weapons and bombs during the fighting against extremists in Nangarhar Province, was rejected today at a news conference held in the Foreign Ministry's Storay Palace.

Speaking to foreign and domestic journalists, Major General Muhammad Nabi 'Azimi, Afghanistan's first deputy defense minister, and General A. Zakharov, representing the Soviet Union limited military contingents command in Afghanistan, labelled these claims by Western sources as white lies. Afghanistan's first deputy defense minister said that Western media have once again claimed that Afghanistan's Armed Forces have used poisonous gas against armed extremist groups in Nangarhar Province, although foreign journalists have seen the mopping up operations to rid these regions of extremists. [Words indistinct] these claims are completely unfounded.

Maj Gen Muhammad Nabi 'Azimi added that Afghanistan's Government relentlessly pursues the humane national reconciliation policy, with the main objective of restoring nationwide peace and ending the war and fratricide.

Referring to Pakistan's and the United States' blatant intervention in Afghanistan's internal affairs and their arming and mobilization of extremists, he said: During the mopping up operations the Armed Forces seized irrefutable documentary evidence about a number of advanced chemical weapons made in the United States and obtained by the extremists to spread death and destruction. These weapons are now in the Army museum.

BIA's military correspondent added that Gen A. Zakharov, representing the Soviet Union limited military contingents command, rejected the Western media's unfounded claim that Soviet aircraft used chemical weapons in Nangarhar Province and said: By putting out such false (?propaganda) the Pakistan Government and various U.S. circles intend to weaken Soviet authority, not only in the eyes of Afghanistan's people but also in the eyes of the world. However, the Soviet Union approaches the solution of regional issues seriously and justly, strictly follows the Geneva accords, and is consolidating its infallible authority in the international arena.

He added: It is clear to all that the USSR Government together with the Afghan Government have put forward initiatives to resolve peacefully the issues around Afghanistan. However Pakistan's Government and the U.S. Administration, are inciting war in Afghanistan and have armed the extremists with advanced rockets which cause death and destruction. He said that attacking Soviet military units in Afghanistan causes death and material damage which cannot be hidden from anyone, such as the attack on Kabul airport which killed 11 of our military men. This proves our claim.

BIA's military correspondent added that Afghanistan's first deputy defense minister and the representative of the Soviet Union limited military contingent command in Afghanistan then replied to journalists' questions.

### Mujahidin Source on Negotiations With USSR

*PM0112095288 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Nov 88 p 1*

[Jamal Khashuqji report: "Direct Negotiations To Be Held Between Afghan Mujahidin and Soviets for the First Time Next Week"]

[Excerpt] Jeddah, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A source close to the Afghan mujahidin has emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that direct talks between mujahidin leaders and the Soviet Union will be held for the first time next week in an Islamic Middle Eastern country supportive of the mujahidin. Contrary to reports by news agencies, the source, who asked to remain anonymous, ruled out the possibility of the meeting's being held within the next 2 days. The source added that Paris was proposed for hosting the meeting but the mujahidin preferred the country originally agreed upon.

The source said negotiations will not focus on the Soviet POW's, as there are other negotiations being held in Islamabad on this issue. The negotiations will deal with broader issues, such as the future of relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, the future of the ruling Marxist party in Kabul, the peace process, and Soviet withdrawal.

The source emphasized that the mujahidin will insist on discussing the fate of the thousands of Afghan children and youths that have been deported to the Soviet Union, as well as the issue of landmines, which is the major challenge facing the process of restoring life to normal in Afghanistan.

Soviet representation at the meeting will be at a high level. The Soviet delegation will be headed by Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister and Soviet Ambassador in Kabul Yuliy Vorontsov, who is close to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He is in charge of the Afghan file, and the Geneva agreement is one of his achievements.

The source affirmed that the mujahidin leaders are in agreement over the holding of the talks, but certain details concerning the delegation's members and the mujahidin's conditions have not yet been agreed upon. [passage omitted]

### Talks To Begin 4 Dec

*BK0112003088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0016 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Nov 30 (AFP)—Talks between Soviet officials and Afghan rebel leaders aimed at finding "the means to complete a Soviet (military) withdrawal from Afghanistan" are to open here on Sunday, rebel sources said on Wednesday.

Soviet troops intervened in Afghanistan in December 1979 to shore up government forces facing resistance from Afghan mujahidin fighters.

Saudi officials and press commentators have so far kept silent on reports this week that the talks would take place here. The reports said the meetings would try to complete a Soviet troops withdrawal according to the terms of an agreement reached in Geneva last April between the Soviet Union, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Saudi Arabia has never acknowledged supporting the Islamic resistance in Afghanistan but has likewise never denied having given it substantial financial assistance.

U.S. experts, cited by THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper, have said that Saudi Arabia provided anti-government forces in Afghanistan with 250 million dollars in 1985 and 275 million in 1986.

While Saudi Arabia does not have diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, several Saudi officials have travelled to Moscow in the last two years.

### Desertions From Kabul Armed Forces Noted

*BK3011155488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of a growing number of desertions from the Kabul regime forces following the mujahidin victories in different areas of the country. On Sunday [27 November] 20 military personnel, including 2 officers from Jalalabad, joined the mujahidin. Reports of similar incidents have also come in from various other areas during the past few days.

In an attack on Kabul military positions near Jalalabad on Saturday, the mujahidin killed 5 soldiers and wounded 16 others. In another attack in the (Shinwar) area, 6 Kabul soldiers were killed and 12 wounded. In Baghlan Province, the mujahidin conducted fierce attacks on military posts around the Khinjan garrison, destroying three posts. In Kabul Province, the mujahidin conducted an attack on Kabul Khord garrison and destroyed a post, killing 10 soldiers and damaging 2 vehicles and 3 machineguns.

In the Paktia area, the mujahidin launched a number of attacks near (Batun), inflicting heavy losses on the Kabul troops in men and material.

### 'Extremists' Eliminated in Various Areas

*LD3011211488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Quoting authorized Armed Forces sources, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the units and companies of the Armed Forces have carried out mopping up operations in some parts of the country over the past 24 hours. As a result, a number of extremists in Nangarhar Province were (?eliminated) and missile unit and a mortar belonging to them were destroyed.

Also, during a mopping operation by the Armed Forces units in Qandahar Province and in the Takhteh Pol region, dozens of the extremist elements were crushed. One rocket launcher together with 16 rounds of ammunition, 24 mortar mines, and 2 boxes of ammunition for heavy machineguns were seized. One rocket launcher, one DShK, and four enemy strongholds were destroyed.

As a result of an operation by the Armed Forces in Shakar Darreh, Baraki, Bagram, and Shindand Districts and in Chaghcharan Province, (Maymaan), Takhar, and Badakhshan, dozens of warmongering extremists including two Arab advisers, were killed and two weapons and ammunition dumps of the enemy were destroyed.

### 133d Note Submitted to UN Mission in Kabul

*LD0112013988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 30, BAKHTAR—The 133rd notice of the Liaison Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) with the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) on three cases flagrant violation from the provisions of the Geneva accords by Pakistan was submitted here today to the UNGOMAP.

The notice gives all-sided information on the nature, place and date of the violations and losses resulted from the violations as well.

The notice asks UNGOMAP to investigate the said violations on the basis of the seventh item of the document number four of the Geneva accords and inform the authorities of the RA and the representative of the UN secretary general of the results.

## Bangladesh

### Foreign Minister Holds News Conference 23 Nov

*BK2411075488 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Nov 88*

[Text] President Ershad has felicitated Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on holding general elections successfully in his country. This was stated by Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury while addressing a news conference in Dhaka this evening. He said

President Ershad has wished to the Pakistani president best of luck in his negotiations with the political leaders to expedite formation of the democratically elected government.

The foreign minister also referred to the fourth SAARC summit due to begin in Islamabad on the 29th of next month and hoped everything will go on smoothly.

Referring to the declaration of the independent Palestine state, Mr Chowdhury said Bangladesh has immediately recognized the new state and will be receiving an ambassador of Palestine as soon as he is accredited to this country.

The foreign minister also spoke on the situation in Maldives and said Bangladesh is happy over the return of normalcy to that country after an abortive (?coup) attempt by the terrorists to overthrow the government of President Maumoom Abdul Gayoom.

About the president's current visit to New York and Washington, Mr Chowdhury said this was a very suc cessful visit and the president's address to the special sessions of the United Nations was highly appreciated.

The foreign minister expressed his happiness over the recent UN resolution calling for world community's assistance for short-, medium-, and long-term solution to the problem of recurring floods. He described it as a great achievement for Bangladesh.

### On President's U.S. Visit

*BK2411131888 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Nov 88*

[Text] The donor countries and agencies have indicated that another $600 million will be made available to Bangladesh for undertaking short and medium term flood control measures. This will be in addition to $500 million assistance pledged at the UN special session on Bangladesh floods. This was stated by Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury at a news conference in Dhaka Wednesday [23 November]. He said the commitment in this regard will be made with the finalization of the report of Bangladesh UN task force.

Mr Chowdhury said President Ershad's just concluded visit to the United States has created a greater awareness in the U.S. Administration and among the international donors for solution of Bangladesh's perennial flood problem. He said the president's address to the UN special session and meeting with President Reagan have also resulted in positive outcome. In this connection, he referred to President Ershad's visit to India, Nepal, Bhutan, and China and discussing the flood problem with the leaders of those countries as part of multiple bilateral efforts for adopting a regional approach to solving the problem.

The foreign minister said the just concluded meeting of Bangladesh-India task force in Dhaka was very positive and constructive.

### Editorial Views U.S. Presidential Election

*BK2511083088 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Nov 88 p 5*

[Editorial: "American Elections"]

[Text] Republican Vice-President George Bush won on Tuesday [8 November] the Presidential election in America according to the computerised television network projection. Our warm congratulations for him.

It was a long and bitter campaign that has blissfully ended in Democrat Michael Dukakis graciously conceding victory to his rival Bush. Which shows that, unlike the elections and electioneering with which most Third World countries are familiar, passion tending at times to get the better of sober conduct, did not outlive the campaigns. America with its more than two centuries of democratic tradition and practice has acquired an institutional propriety that is well worth emulation by the fledgling, hobbling democracies in the relatively undeveloped parts of the world.

American elections are a great event. It is particularly so in a time when parliamentary elections including the presidential ones are a common feature of change of government in the democratic third of the world. Yet there are differences between a society that has allowed its democratic institutions to grow unhindered by forces that seek to thrive more on authoritarianism than bow to a mandate given by the people in a free and fair election and one that is yet to learn to do so. Exciting as it is for the party and individual winning the elections, the more demanding side to it is that the new president at once assumes a global responsibility which in today's world no other elected president does.

It is at this point that the politics—and the nationalist politics at that—tends to merge in history. It implies an inescapability for the given president and his government, however much nationalist sentiment might be pulling at him or his policy and programme. Domesticaly, America has its formidable economic problems of trade and budget deficits to deal with. The contestants in the electoral campaign have made pledge either to raise taxes (Dukakis) or not to do so (Bush). This might be one of the major problems for George Bush to overcome to bring the economy into line.

To add to his burden are far greater challenges that America as a world power has to face up to. These are extra-domestic and regional-cum-global in dimension and nature.

Mr. Bush has inherited not only a presidency but also a world in which tensions are building particularly between countries in a region or internally in some of

them. Open conflicts arising from regional tensions (e.g. West Asia between Iran and Iraq) have been for the time being reduced to an uneasy truce while new tensions have started growing across and afield, posing a threat to regional peace. The UN is performing its role with all seriousness. Of immediate interest to the new American President is the explosive situation developing between Israel and Palestinians.

American foreign policy has to be bent towards stabilising Israeli-Arab/Palestinian relations through the influence the Bush Government could use with Israel to make it agree to a policy of live and let live with its Arab and Palestinian neighbours. Among other points of both open and potential danger is Afghanistan, yet to find a political solution to their problem. Latin America is not only in mounting economic trouble; internal factious propensities are ressurrecting to take it back to the bad old days of mayhem and slaughter.

President George Bush has stepped into the shoes of his predecessor Reagan in a more intimate sense than could happen if he were not an incumbent Vice-President. Mr. Reagan's record in both foreign and domestic policy has been far above the average and Mr. Bush is committed to the same. But the Third World with its economic troubles—heavy debts, poverty, and social decline—would expect of the new American Government a level of economic liberalism that will help them over their difficulties. Protectionism in terms of which sections of American economists and politicians are thinking would call for the attention of the Bush Government to provide the struggling Third World with a just advantage in trade.

As we have said Mr. Bush has inherited a very troubled world made so also by the proliferation of weapons of destruction and their accessibility to groups and countries using them only to kill. We have noted with some relief Mr. Bush's campaign pledges to eliminate such engines of indiscriminate destruction as chemical or biological weapons. Wars are not wholly to be wished off from the regions or wider fields. But their horrors have to be reduced to the minimum by the extension and diversification of the disarmament policy pursued by the America Government, in cooperation with other big powers.

As for global peace, that is going to be no problem for Mr. Bush. If it is the superpowers that are to start a third world war, they are not likely at all to do such a foolish thing: Another war will mean quick mutual annihilation. Besides, so long as small power (nations) will keep or be kept fighting each other a great war will be wholly unnecessary. Yet, of course, President Bush will be picking up where Mr. Reagan left off and carry on negotiations with a Soviet chief reportedly very much in favour of disarmament and world peace.

Empires have long collapsed giving place to the emergence of nations freed from imperial rule and exploitation. Into the bargain, though big powers have replaced big empires with their respective zones of influence and power and their pattern of behaviour toward small powers.

The most welcome part of this historical transition is the currency of democracy, America becoming its headwaters. An important feature of American foreign policy could be increased emphasis placed on democratisation of political institutions in those parts of the world where its influence and help keeps working. Burgeoning democracies have also much to learn from the American model not only of political stability achieved through truly democratic methods of elections, representative and constitutional rule, and separation of powers. They also must note that without it their economic and social growth will remain an idle dream.

### Editorial Assesses Elections in Pakistan

*BK0112005888 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Nov 88 p 5*

[Editorial: "Politics in Pakistan"]

[Text] By all means Pakistan must try and avoid the error it made over the election results in 1970. It cost it a whole part of the country. The simple lesson is you cannot reject a popular vote with impunity. And you should not. It has been well-said the remedy for the ills of democracy is more democracy. Indeed, any problem arising in the process of change from autocracy (or authoritarian rule of any shape) to democracy will not be solved by undemocratic methods, i.e. forcing something on the people against their express will or choice.

After the election, a fair and free one, in Pakistan, the problem that is now trying the wisdom and wits of acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is whom to call to form a government—Benazir Bhutto or Nawaz Sharif. Benazir and her party have since complained of the delay made by the President in doing so.

The president has offered his defence by invoking the Constitution that until oath-taking is completed no one could be named a Prime Minister. Meanwhile IDA's (Islamic Democratic Alliance) chance of forming a government has slumped following the JU (Jamiat-i 'Ulema-i Islam) and MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] refusing to join any of the two major parties, the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] or IDA. This has worked still more to the advantage of Benazir now confidently looking forward to forming a government. Speculation among analysts and the electorate also points to such a consummation.

Pakistan-watchers have however expressed their doubts about an easy solution to be found to what appears to have become a rather tough issue. Basically, the conflict that can be said to have not only delayed the process of government-forming but also have aroused doubts about

the line along which Pakistani politics should proceed is, in the first instance, one between the old guard and the new; secondly, as a corollary to it, between religion and secularism, at least as it is intepreted by a set of commentators at home and abroad, or as it to be. The difficulty it appears to which old guard calculations have run is whether, on this analysis, the country should be turned over to a secularist leader or government.

For one thing, secularism as it is understood in the west generally or in western democracies is far removed from the secularism Pakistan seems to have voted for. In fact analyses tending to such a view of the voting pattern and the swing in favour of Banazir Bhutto are too simplistic. There are quite a few other factors—a past repressive government, restrictions on women's liberty, hanging of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, denial of the right of the people to exercise their franchise along proper parliamentary lines and last but not least the charisma of a young, educated new leader in Benazir—had much to do with the victory going to the PPP leadership.

There is more to it. Benazir has, both by profession and action, shown that she has renounced the political line followed by her campaign promises, she has not opted for socialism. On foreign policy also she is not going to make any major change, keeping her relations with the U.S.A. intact and that for very obvious economic reasons. On the Afghan mujahedin question also she says she is not going to alter the present policy. Then, taking Benazir at her word, where is the conflict?

Besides, most important, at this hour Pakistan cannot just afford any change in her major policies. Considering the delicate situation in which Pakistan is placed as well as the near-inevitabilities likely to follow on a misstep, the PPP and IDA must agree to work together in a national government at the centre. This in the interest of solidarity of a nation that is now faced with the problem of holding it together amid forces threatening to tear it apart. France is running a government with a socialist President and a conservative Prime Minister and the U.S. a Republican President and a Democratic Congress. A government based on such an amicable arrangement alone will provide Pakistan with what it most critically needs at the moment.

**Commentary on PRC Help in Energy, Other Sectors**
*BK2011163488 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 88*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] China and Bangladesh are probing a new area of cooperation lately and this is in the field of energy, mineral and natural resources exploration. The beginning has been made with the on-going visit of the Bangladesh energy minister, Mr Gholam Mostafa, to China. He had talks with Chinese Vice Premier Tian Jiyun, who said there was immense scope for cooperation in the field of power generation, mining, and gas. During the last 30 years China developed an appropriate technology for mining. It gathered an experience which can now be shared with friendly countries of the Third World.

In Bangladesh, many of the natural resources, like coal in the northern part of the country, and zircon in the southern sandy beaches of Cox's Bazar have remained largely unexploited. The reason for this is the lack of an appropriate technology and the funds, which would be required to make a start. Some of the large Western-based multinational companies engaged in mining and exploration have also shown interest in the mining potential of Bangladesh. Bilateral cooperation with China in this vital economic sector would be a further boost.

Bangladesh and China also needed the prospects of Chinese collaboration in industrial use of natural gas. Joint ventures with China in the case of gas-based fertilizer complexes have already proved successful. Bangladesh's friendship with China is rooted in the history of the two countries. With the formal establishment of diplomatic relations, the traditional ties were given a firm footing. The political response of the two countries to major international issues facing the world have been identical. The two countries are committed to the development of the living standards of their own people and in this respect they are also eager to cooperate.

All these natural factors have contributed to their growing and vibrant relationship between China and Bangladesh. The ties have proved to be mutually beneficial to both countries. The leaders of Bangladesh and China have recognized this fact on several occasions. During President Ershad's recent visit to China, both countries reiterated their commitment to take their bilateral ties to even higher level of cooperation. The president's visit was intended to probe the prospects of regional cooperation in the control of annual flooding in Bangladesh.

The Chinese Government wholeheartedly responded to the Bangladesh proposal and agreed to form a joint body to study the possibilities of cooperation in river trading and dredging of rivers. The joint body, which comprises experts from both countries, is expected to start work soon. China has stressed that it is ready to share the experience of flood control, which it gained through the prevention of floods in some of the major rivers of the country.

China-Bangladesh friendship has seen its manifestations in many other areas. Chinese farm technology, rearing livestock, and poultry breeding have been useful to Bangladesh. The two countries are overburdened by population and there is shortage of land for agriculture. The high-yielding technology for raising farm output ought to be the most suitable for Bangladesh.

The energy minister is also expected to encourage Chinese participation in the power generation sector. Bangladesh requires cheap and dependable power generation for its growing industry and rural electrification. Chinese assistance can be useful in this sector as well.

## India

### Pakistani Military Attache Apprehended 30 Nov

*BK3011155888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] The Pakistan military attache, Brigadier Z.I. Abbasi, has been apprehended along with an Indian contact. According to an official press release Brig Abbasi was nabbed in a Delhi hotel today while accepting a highly sensitive defense document from the Indian.

Brig Abbasi was posted to India 2 years ago by the Ziaul Haq government. The Indian security agencies have collected over a period of several months incontrovertible evidence.

### Military Attache Released

*BK0112085288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 1 (AFP)—Indian authorities have released Pakistan's military attache to New Delhi, after arresting him for alleged spying Wednesday [30 November], a Pakistan Embassy spokesman said Thursday.

Brigadier-General Zahirul Islam Abbasi was arrested along with an Indian national late Wednesday at New Delhi's Ranjit Hotel and taken to a police station, where semi-official sources said he had claimed diplomatic immunity.

"He has been released," the spokesman said without giving further details.

An official government statement said at the time he had been caught in the act of accepting defence-related documents from an Indian.

The statement added that Indian security agents had "incontravertible evidence" of Brig.-Gen. Abbasi's involvement in defence-related espionage over a period of months.

A government spokesman contacted Thursday said he had "no new information" on the case, and was unable to say whether Brig.-Gen. Abassi was still in the Indian capital.

(In Pakistan Wednesday the government said it had learned with "shock" through a press release of the arrest, and added that Pakistani authorities were in touch with the embassy in New Delhi.)

Local press reports in New Delhi Thursday identified the Indian national only as Mohammad Ashraf. The mass circulation HINDUSTAN TIMES quoted unnamed reliable sources as saying Mr. Ashraf had deliberately been given access to highly sensitive documents.

"Sources said the operation (to trap Brig.-Gen. Abbasi) was set in motion over six months ago," THE HINDUSTAN TIMES said.

### Envoy to Islamabad Briefs Leaders on Developments

*BK3011160488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] The Indian ambassador in Islamabad, Mr S .K. Singh, has briefed the Indian leadership about the latest developments in Pakistan. Mr Singh, who is in New Delhi for the last 3 days, had long and detailed meetings with the president, Mr Venkataraman; the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao; and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh.

Briefing newsmen an official spokesman said Mr Singh also held preliminary discussions with Indian leaders on the forthcoming SAARC summit in Islamabad next month.

### Execution Date for Indira Gandhi Assassins Set

*BK3011163888 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] According to agency reports, the two convicts in the Indira Gandhi assassination case—Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh—are to be executed on Friday. The execution date has been refixed to the 2d of next month following the rejection of Kehar Singh's mercy petition by the president, Mr R. Venkataraman.

### Soldier, 2 'Terrorists' Killed in Punjab Raid

*BK0112084888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] In Punjab, two hardcore terrorists and a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawan [soldier] were killed in an encounter in Amritsar District early this morning. According to an official spokesman, the encounter followed when a party of a security forces raided a terrorist hideout in the village of Shahpur Tapial. Two terrorists, identified as Major Singh and Jaspal Singh, were killed and another two managed to escape. One CRPF jawan was also killed and four injured in the encounter.

One Chinese assault rifle, a revolver, a gun, and over 200 rounds of ammunition have been recovered from the terrorists.

### Daily Hails Outcome of Gorbachev Visit

*BK3011094588 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 22 Nov 88 p 11*

[Editorial: "A Rewarding Visit"]

[Text] By all accounts, President Gorbachev's brief visit to New Delhi over the weekend went off extremely well. It was, to begin with, very productive—a massive Rs [rupees] 5,400-crore credit to India in the power sector, agreements on scientific, cultural and educational exchanges in 1989-90, and a ten-year pact on the joint exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. More than that, however, the visit reinforced the perspectives the two countries share on the state of the world.

Much has been read into Mr Gorbachev's remarks, when he received the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, about the welcome "signs of improvement" in Sino-Indian relations, the importance of good ties among the Soviet Union, India and China "for the destinies of Asia and for global progress", and the likelihood of a Sino-Soviet summit, which is "probably not too far away". These statements have been interpreted in some quarters as a desire on the Soviet leader's part to forge a special triangular relationship among the three states and, more particularly, as an implicit exhortation to Mr Rajiv Gandhi, who is due to visit China in the third week of December, to repair Sino-Indian ties as part of a wider understanding among states in the Asian-Pacific region.

It would be nearer the mark to view Mr Gorbachev's remarks as an elaboration of his central thesis that "a new international situation is taking shape, which offers a prospect of hope for the 21st century", and that "one of the remarkable features of this situation is the unique role played by the developing countries". Mr Gorbachev was neither pushing his Asian-Pacific regional cooperation initiative over-aggressively nor tacitly telling India that it should settle its border dispute with China in order to promote such cooperation. But he was reiterating that the world, including especially the Soviet Union, is in greater flux (thanks partly to his initiatives) than it has been in a long while and that all countries must take note of it. The absence in the joint statement at the end of the visit of any reference to China has, again, fuelled more specualtion than would seem to be warranted.

The joint statement reaffirms that India and the Soviet Union see eye to eye on a great many matters: nuclear disarmament, the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, the peace initiatives in Kampuchea and South-West Africa, the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq ceasefire, the West Asian situation, and other issues. Underlying these shared perceptions, however, is the acknowledgement that the world is changing rapidly, that interdependence and complexity are growing, that domestic and global concerns are interlinked, and that relationships have constantly to be reviewed in the light of fresh developments.

As the Soviet Union seeks to redefine its relations with the U.S., Western Europe, China and Japan, it is undergoing no less unprecedented changes within itself. India can scarcely be unaffected by such major transformations in the global dispensation. It, too, has to reassess its role in the immediate South Asian region and further afield. Policies framed in one set of circumstances cannot be allowed to become rigidities in another. That flexibility in a time of transition, when former verities are thrown into the crucible of new realities, is what Mr Gorbachev's visit was, in the end, all about.

## Iran

### Editorial Assesses Relations With United States

*WA3011146888 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 3 Nov 88 p 10*

[Editorial by Ebrahim Ansari-Lari: "4 November, an End to the Dreams of the White House in Iran"]

[Summary] There were two important events in the short history of U.S.-Iran relations. The first is the 1953 coup d'etat which reestablished the dictatorship and opened the way for close cooperation between the Iranian Government and the American oil companies which led to economic, social, political, and especially military relations, and eventual dependence. The second, which is the more important of the two, was the occupation of the American "spy den" which resulted in the complete severance of U.S.-Iran relations. This revolutionary act was a direct response to the imam's 1979 hajj message about combating America and the identification of the old Iranian grudge against the American dictatorial policies and its expansionist mentality.

Some reacted in an incredible manner toward this response to America and some tried to tamper with it. The Great Satan, hoping to influence the Islamic Republic, sent in a council for discussion purposes. The imam refused all discussions and cooperation. Once America lost all hope of continuing its deceit, it showed its true face of hostility toward Islam and the revolution. Iranian bank assets were frozen, followed by an oil embargo and economic sanctions. Finally, in dispair, America was forced into a futile and angry military attack at Tabas which showed its inhumanity and ended in dishonor. When all else failed, the U.S. resorted to military attacks through Iraq, which accomplished nothing other than to add more pages to the criminal files on the United States.

The occupation of the American Embassy had positive results. It ended the unequal and unprincipled relations and resulted in the policy of neither East not West. A second result of this was to oust all Americans from Iran and prepare the grounds for an equal relationship rather

than one of master and slave. A third result was the publishing of important documents which revealed the true face of America. All of the above hastened the economic embargo against Iran which consequently prevented us from taking essential steps toward economic self-sufficiency. The results of this occupation on foreign countries was to end the illusion that America was "invincible."

It showed that if the oppressed are united, the superpowers would not be able to do a "damned thing." Another result was to reveal the activities of the embassies under political immunity. This prompted America to be more careful in its spying operations. The aim of this editorial is to offer new aspects regarding Iran's foreign relations. Of course, the foreign policy of Iran is in the hands of the officials of the Islamic Republic and the purpose of this writing is not an attack.

Recently, the problem of relations with the U.S. has filled the newspapers. Some suggest establishing unconditional relations, as if all of our problems would end with that. In some other newspapers, the principles and problems are dealt with in such a way as if one of the unexplained principles of the Islamic revolution is the severance of relations with this superpower. There was a time when one could not talks about freedom and still have relations with the U.S.

The slightest relation with this "malicious" Satan would have contradicted the maintainance of freedom. At that time the only way was for our nation, our revolution, and our people to learn to stand on our own two feet as soon as possible. Naturally, difficult times had to be endured in order to develop a revolutionary character. In those days we followed our imam in severing our relations in order to stabilize our revolution, maintain our values, and preserve our honor. Thanks to breaking those relations and accepting hardships, we gave credence to our Islamic revolutionary character in the world.

Today's Islamic Iran is not the Iran after the revolution of 1979 which had nothing of its own and needed foreign countries in every way. The revolutionary Iran of 1979 relied only on its faith. The Islamic Iran of today still relies on its faith but has also experienced ten years of economic, industrial, and political independence. In spite of shortages, it has achieved great successes. Today, we have gained immense experience in every way; this gives us the power to establish rational relations within a proper framework with any superpower. In one way, eight years of resistance rejected the assumption that one could not survive without the superpowers; in another way, it made the world look at us differently.

In 1979 we were viewed as shaky and chaotic, threatening to fall at any minute. The world expected us to seek refuge in the arms of either Eastern or Western superpowers to maintain our stability, but today it concedes to Iran its place in the world scene in spite of its unique nature, independence, freedom, and Islamic character.

"It is thus that I say that the Islamic Republic of Iran can and must at the present time open a new chapter in its foreign relations and with the selection of the principles and norms of ths foreign policy within the framework of neither East nor West, establish courteous relations based on the rights of both parties, with all the nations of the world, unless the esteemed president may not want to have political relations with a country or countries because of certain reasons and not because he is unable or is fearful of establishing relations.

"In other words, it is the height of pessimism and short-sightedness to think that any relations with the West means compromise or submission.... Those who think that safeguarding the revolution and its values depends on our lack of relations with the West are not only unaware of the revolution's solidity, power, and amazing growth in the last 10 years, but also have a wrong and improper view of the essence of the West. They are wrong to think the Islamic revolution is a child, learning to walk, a child so weak that it cannot be trusted out in world society and unable to confront various intrigues and conspiriacies. They have a wrong impression of the West as well. They think the West flips the pages of the destiny of the countries and events. They are unaware that today the Islamic revolution of Iran has reached such a state of stability, elevation, value, and clear-sightedness that there is no longer any need to avoid 'imperialism' for fear of falling limp in its arms. In their faulty estimation, eight years of disassociation with the West has not been due to the need of the Islamic revolution to avoid [the West] and find a way to independence, bringing into existence an Islamic revolutionary personality for the Iranian nation. According to this estimation, the avoidance of relations with the West was not due to a conscious willpower and an audacious choice to guide the Muslim nation of Iran, but merely because of the Islamic Republic of Iran's fear and apprehension of the West and lack of power to deal actively and correctly with the West in the political arena and other situations. It is true. The Islamic Republic of Iran might still not find relations with the West advisable but the explanation of the problem is not weakness, wretchedness, servility, fear, apprehension, or lack of self-confidence. It is rather a lack of interest and desire on the part of the Islamic Republic.... Maybe one could find the reason for fear and apprehension or lack of limited relations with the West in the deplorable history of Iran's foreign relations...which have created a depressing, pessimistic, insecure mentality whose sediments ravage the mind and soul of those who see today in every relation with the West the ugly face of colonialism and exploitation.... We must believe that, if necessary, we can have relations with the U.S. with complete self-reliance and confidence from a position of strength and under the guidance of the revolution and the officials of the Islamic Republic.... Lastly, under the present conditions we have nothing to lose by establishing proper relations with the superpowers of the West based on justified rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Not only we will have nothing to lose, but also by using proper means we will...regain

our lost rights in the world. Furthermore, during this new reconstruction period of our Islamic country, we will profit from the capabilities of the outside world under proper, evaluated, political, economic, scientific-technical, and industrial relations, so long as it does not harm our revolution."

**Roundtable Discussion of PNC Resolutions**

*NC2511104888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1705 GMT 24 Nov 88*

["Weekly Political Roundtable" with Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy foreign minister in charge of Afro-Arab affairs; Ahmad 'Azizi, representative and member of the Islamic Majles Executive Committee delegation and secretary general of the interparliamentary group of the Islamic Republic of Iran, moderated by Afshar; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Afshar] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear viewers of the weekly political roundtable, salutations to you and, esteemed brothers and sisters. I hope for your success. As you are aware, the PNC held a session in Algiers recently and adopted some decisions on the recognition of the Israeli Government and the setting up of an independent Palestinian state. The real axis around which the weekly roundtable discussion tonight revolves is the sensitive and important issue of Palestine. I ask permission to introduce the participants to you before beginning the program: Our brother, Mr Ahmad 'Azizi, the representatiave and member of the Islamic Majles Executive Committee and secretary general of the inter-parliamentary group of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and our brother, Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy foreign minister in charge of Afro-Arab affairs.

While welcoming you dear brotehrs and thanking you for your participation in the weekly roundtable program, I ask for permission to put my first question of the program to you, Your Excellency, Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam. As I mentioned, the PNC held a session in Algiers and adopted some decisions regarding the recognition of Israel and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. In our domestic circles, there have been two approaches to this issue: The first is to reject this issue outright on principle and on the grounds that this trend is a very deviant one. However, the second view which some espouse is that the announcement of such a state is, in itself, a positive step, even though it will not be able to resolve all Palestinian problems completely nor the Palestinian Muslims' uprising in any way. I wish to ask you about your views on these two approaches.

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] With greetings to the imam of the ummah and our martyr-nurturing nation. I should say that what you have just said is, in itself, the answer to your question. There are two points with regard to the decisions which the PNC adopted recently: The first is the incidental or de facto recognition of Israel. It is natural that the Islamic Republic of Iran rejects this. In a statement which our Foreign Ministry issued immediately after the conclusion of the PNC session, it was stressed that we do not recognize any regime in the name of Israel.

Since the inception of the Islamic Republic and the victory of the Islamic revolution, our policy has been based on the rejection of any action which results in giving a mandate to the existence or official recognition of the Zionist regime. [passage omitted]

The second point—also based on the Islamic Republic's policy—is that we will support every measure that assists the establishment of a permanent identity for the Palestinians and makes it more concrete.

If the setting up of the country of Palestine is the objective and aims for the establishment of sovereignty over the entire Palestinian territory, it is natural that we will support it. This could be a step forward in the political struggles of the Palestinian Muslims. However, if it is established over a part of the Palestinian territory and at the price of the recognition of Israel, it is natural that we will reject it, on the principle which I just mentioned. I should say that, if such a step is taken at this juncture, without any concrete gains, it will be a major setback for Palestinian authorities.

It is clear to all that Israel was created by means of force and, in turn, that it is only by force that we can retrieve anything from it. Israelis have not retreated from any point except by force. For example, we have witnessed that they retreated in Lebanon, but only because of the epicmaking struggles of the Lebanese nation. However, they have not retreated completely. I am optimistic that this action by the PNC will be a step toward the liberation of all Palestinians, whether those living within the usurped Palestinian territories or abroad. This second point that I have mentioned should have been the first step, not the acceptance of the UN resolutions, which are a plan for compromise with Israel and for bartering of territory...

['Azizi, interrupting] From this point of view [words indistinct].

[Afsahr] Please, continue.

['Azizi] What has taken place... ['Azizi changes thought] I should mention something that will complete the answer to your question and that is an addendum to Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam's remarks. The announcement of an independent state in an attempt to give the struggle a serious, concrete shape, can only be considered a positive phenomenon if we interpret it as a practicable blow on the form of the Zionist regime. However, we have observed that the announcement of an independent Palestinian state in light of the developments we are discussing is in conformity and in harmony with, as well as within the framework of UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

These resolutions envisage the right of all states in the region to exist in peace and to have peaceful frontiers; in other words, it is the recognition of Israel's existence and its legitimation. Therefore, the linkage of this announcement with the acceptance of those resolutions has shorn this step of that positive aspect which has been mentioned. I believe that this point, lucidly clarified, should be termed a deviant measure. This action only would have been positive and deemed so if it had clearly announced the setting up of a Palestinian state without also implying or directly mentioning the existence of the Zionist regime.

[Afshar] Mr 'Azizi, in this regard, there is a feeling in some political circles that, because it is in the interests of the superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, they have reached agreement to bring about an easing of tension in various parts of the world in an attempt to eliminate crises. These circles believe that the recent PNC decisions are in conformity with these superpower objectives. What is your opinion on this?

['Azizi] If we survey the history of U.S.-Soviet relations—especially after World War II in 1945, when the Cold War era began—some general principles emerge on which the two world powers concurred, the most fundamental and strongest concerning the Palestinian issue. [passage omitted]

The superpower consensus of opinion on this issue has always existed. The answer to your question is in the affirmative. The explosion at the Phalangist Headquarters following Bashir al-Jumayyil's appointment as Lebanese president after the Zionist regime's attack on Lebanon in 1982 can be considered the pivot of a more active Soviet debut in the Middle East political equilibrium. In fact, a number of policies followed which culminated in the formula for the convening of an international peace conference. This can be considered a joint superpower formula for resolving the Palestinian issue, despite U.S. opposition to such a conference and its viewpoint and terms and conditions regarding it. It is tantamount to the closing of the Palestine dossier to the detriment of the ideals of the Palestinian people, in the final analysis.

[Afshar] In this regard Mr 'Azizi, there is another issue; namely, the PNC's acceptance of UN Resolution 242 which guarantees the recognition of Israel. It may be said that, in the same vein, 'Arafat's positive response to the U.S. peace plan is the result of the Americans stated condition that the Palestinians can only participate in the Middle East talks if they accept the U.S. peace plan. I would like to know how close this analysis is to the facts? Also what do you feel the future U.S. strategy will be with regard to the Palestinian question?

['Azizi] The United States has announced a comprehensive peace plan and is acting within its framework on the Palestinian issue. The Camp David accords signed by the U.S. State Department, Egypt, and Israel, is also part of the same comprehensive peace plan. The crux of the plan and its very essence, which attempts to clothe it in legitimacy, is the allotment of some territory for peace, which is, in fact, a means of getting the Arabs and the sides involved in face-to-face discussions.

Naturally, the PNC's acceptance of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 is tantamount to the PLO's acceptance of the comprehensive U.S. peace plan. There are certain differences. The general framework is the same, but some (?differences) exist with regard to the peripheral aspects of the issue—and these can only be considered secondary, because they talk of the establishment of the independent Palestinian state while Camp David and the U.S. and Reagan's plan refer to a confederation of Palestine with Jordan or the granting of autonomy to Palestinians within the framework of the Zionist regime's territorial limits.

With regard to an international conference on peace, the United States has proposed the condition that it should be based on initial, direct dialogue between the parties involved, while the PLO and most of the Arabs, and other sides involved support the convening of such talks and a conference under UN supervision. Naturally, the United States will act according to Israel's interests and the objectives of world Zionism, which rejects the establishment of any kind of country which gives the Palestinians independence. Israel regards the establishment of such a country as a danger to its security. Israel is of the opinion that the Palestinians are not a stateless people because Jordan can be considered a Palestinian country. Israel will work with the United States for this purpose, and will certainly take the PLO with it on this path.

[Afshar] Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam. Following the PNC's adoption of these decisions in Algiers, the Zionist regime categorically rejected them. The United States has welcomed these decisions to a certain extent, stressing that they have certain positive points as the PNC accepts Resolution 242. On the other hand, we note that the French Government has welcomed these decisions and the French foreign minister has announced that they are to Israel's advantage in the long-term. Because we know that these three countries have a consensus of opinion on the Palestine issue, where does this difference of opinion regarding the PNC resolutions emanate from?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] Allow me to mention a point which transpires from the official PNC declaration. The PNC declaration in Algiers has two parts: One is the statement for the establishment of the Palestinian state and the manner of setting up a Palestinian government. The other is the concluding statement, which does not mention the acceptance of Resolution 242, but does mention the withdrawal of forces from territories occupied after 1967. Naturally we condemn this because it does not call for an [complete] Israeli withdrawal and the elimination of Israel. This, then, taints the first issue, that is, the setting up of an independent Palestinian government.

Unfortunately, they have, in this manner, accepted the partition of Palestine. Regrettably, I should point out that the impression exists among themselves that they were justified in doing so. [passage omitted]

Palestine is a composite whole with an independent, unified identity. In order to illustrate this farther, let us say, for example, that if Saudi Arabia wishes to divide a segment of Mecca and allot it to someone or to a government, none of us Muslims would allow it to do so. No individual, organization, nor generation would be given such permission. However, Resolution 242, which Mr 'Azizi mentioned, has been the basis for the United Nations. It is not too improbable to ponder, in view of the maneuvers that they have witnessed so far, that the Palestinians may (?accept it) as far as recognition of Israel is concerned; that is, recognition of Israel in exchange for territory as Mr 'Azizi remarked. This is the basis, the spirit of that resolution as against (?principles). [passage omitted]

Europe, the United States, and the Zionists in the occupied areas, as well as the Eastern bloc, as Mr 'Azizi remarked, all have a strategy regarding the Palestinian issue. The U.S. policy implemented by Zionists throughout the world, most of whom reside in Israel, along with the international community and the great and strong world powers, are gradually, incrementally dragging the Palestinians to disgrace.

The Palestinians have only two paths open to them: First, they should continue their actions, with the knowledge that they are playing for time and should not have to pay any price for it. We support this way, which will keep the issue alive. They should be permitted to maneuver, or God forbid, as some facts indicate, in order to obtain some territory and set up a government they should forget the essence of the matter. This is unacceptable and, God forbid, it drags the Palestine issue to the level of Camp David and the U.S. peace plan. Obviously, Israel is not willing to grant any territory to Palestinians; they are not even willing to visualize the establishment of a Palestinian country or government within the framework of these international games. Nor are they willing to visualise the attainment of the Palestinian people's rights in even a part of the land of Palestine. I wish to add that we feel especially strongly that, in these special circumstances, when people in Palestine are fighting emptyhanded, with stones or with their bare hands, it is appropriate that the political trend should be different. It should be one that would strengthen the struggles so that it would give official recognition to these struggles, which have been successful so far from the political and propaganda point of view. In such a situation, all Arab and Islamic forces should be mobilized in the support and strengthening of these struggles and not, God forbid, for the acceptance of the existence of the Zionist entity or Jewish and Palestinian governments in this land. [passage omitted].

[Afshar] Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, a few months before the plan for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, was due to be announced, the Jordanian regime severed its political and legal ties with the inhabitants of Jordan's West Bank. This reinforced the opinion that the territory which will comprise the state is the West Bank area, along with part of the Gaza Strip. As you mentioned in your remarks, general indications are that Israel will never permit the establishment of such a state. So my question once again is what is your opinion on this viewpoint or analysis?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] Whether Jordan took this step in coordination with the PLO, or in order to cause a setback for the Palestinian protesters of the occupied lands who needed some support, however superficial or materialistic, is a matter of controversy. The nature of Jordan's action and its past record prove that it does not believe in the concept of an independent Palestinian state. It always refers to the Palestinians as part of Jordan and says that they should continue under its aegis, possibly through a confederation. Unfortunately, the Palestinians were dragged into a situation and were forced into this game when all was lost as a result of King Husayn's statement last year.

I do not foresee any possibility, in the current political climate and with the system we have in the world at present, that a government will be set up there. Israel, if you have noticed, has never specified its borders and does not admit to any borders. It claims theoretically that it stretches from the Nile to the Euphrates. It has never said whether it accepts the boundaries of 1947, 1948, or 1967, or those of the 1976 war. If the Lebanese people were not struggling against Israel, we would have seen the borders of the Arab countries and the occupied territories in Beirut. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] If you permit me, Mr 'Azizi, I have a very important question to ask you in connection with the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. There are three attributes that a state must have legally; that is, definite borders, a population which is native to it, and a political system. All of these apply in this case. My question is: When a country is being set up with these specifications, what is the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance in this regard? Will it still not recognize it officially or might it recognize it in this case?

['Azizi] I think that these—that is, a definite boundary, a native population, and whatever else you mentioned—are not the only prerequisites as regards the ideological considerations of the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy toward the establishment of a state. The most important issue on which this policy would be based is the legitimacy of the state, how it derives the right for its establishment, and at what price. Therefore the main factor in the Islamic Republic of Iran's opposition to the

plan for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state is the fact that the resolutions which formed its basis are a negation of this legitimacy.

Consequently there are no grounds for considering the recognition of the independent Palestinian state, even if it meets the aforementioned criteria. What are its definite boundaries? Can we demarcate them deep within the Zionist regime, within the heart of a land which was, on principle, established by means of force, aggression, and belligerence? Can the boundaries be demarcated in such a case and can we declare a state within its borders? Would this not amount to legitimizing the state on the other side of the borders?

Therefore, in view of the above fundamental principles, I think that it is not possible for the Islamic Republic of Iran even to consider this matter. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Thank you very much. Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, as the last question of this week's roundtable, I wish to know your opinion, or that of the Islamic Republic of Iran in general, on the solution to the Palestinian problem or issue. What is it anyway?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] [passage omitted] Palestinians and those who are struggling against Israel can attain their rights. Israel was formed on the basis of force and there is no other recourse but to struggle against it and eliminate it. I regret the fact that there have been differences in the PLO on this matter. If we speak only of the period after the Islamic revolution and the withdrawal that took place, we see that a new spirit was infused in those who cherished the thought of the liberation of Jerusalem in their minds. [passage omitted]

If the Lebanese people can fight Israel and drive it out of Lebanon, it is clear that if the Palestinians, Mr 'Arafat, and the Palestinian combatants had continued the struggle alongside the Lebanese nation they would have achieved quicker results. Unfortunately, in the Cairo Declaration, Mr 'Arafat announced his opposition to striking blows at Israel outside the Palestinian lands. [passage omitted]

Once again I wish to state that no one has the right—not Mr 'Arafat, not the PLO, the PNC, not even the Palestinian generation—to accept the partition of the Palestinian lands. No one has this right. With the trend, God forbid, which has been adopted—if it continues—the fate of the Palestinian lands will be decided only by Israel and the United States. This means that the combatant protesting generation within will be crushed and there will be no future for an independent country, even on part of the Palestinian soil. This is because they are, step by step, losing their ability to threaten Israel. If this is the case, there will be no reason for Israel to give anyone anything.

[Afshar] In conclusion of the program, I wish to thank you for your participation in the weeky roundtable. Esteemed viewers, I thank you for your attention to this program and, along with brothers 'Azizi and Sheykh ol-Eslam and all our colleagues in the political group of the second network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran I wish you all goodbye. God bless you and good night.

## Commentary on Armenian-Azeri Clashes in USSR

*LD3011140188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1109 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Political commentary: "The Difficulties Facing the Soviet Government Due to Internal Disturbances"]

[Excerpts] For some time now, Soviet political rule has been caught up with some problems and predicaments in regions far from the center in Moscow. These regions which, from a historical standpoint, became affiliated with the Soviet Union at a rather late stage—in the course of being caught up with the reformist policies of Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Union leader—are now revealing difficulties that have burdened them for a long time now [passage omitted]

In the republics of Armenia and Azarbayjan, the situation differs from that of the Baltic republics. On the one hand, the clashes that have occured between inhabitants of these regions, esecially in Azarbayjan, are a reflection of relations between these two ethnic communities, and on the other hand, in the climate of Gorbachev's new policies, they indicate the greater demands made by the inhabitants of these republics on the central government.

Noting that violent clashes occured between the peoples of these regions in the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th centuries, one can find historical and factual backgrounds to the present clashes. At present, the people of Armenia quite clearly wish to annex the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which is located within the borders of the Azarbayjan Republic, to the Republic of Armenia. They base their demand on the fact that a large number of the people of that region are Armenians, though Moscow has not accepted this demand. In the face of this demand, the movement of the people of Azarbayjan has taken on a political dimension and as a result the Soviet Army has been sent to that region. But what is striking is that Islamic belief prevails in the lives of the people of Azarbayjan, and because of this—foreign press agencies report—the political movements of these people have also taken Islamic forms.

Up to now, a large number of Azeris in Armenia have emigrated from there due to ethnic clashes. Also, thousands of Armenians in the Azarbayjan Republic have left that republic. The Soviet Army continues to control the Azarbayjan region in order to prevent further clashes. [passage omitted]

However, the problems related to the Baltic, Azarbayjan, and Armenian Republics remain; and although Mikhail Gorbachev, the CPSU secretary general, has announced that the Soviet Union should be transformed into a modern society—and these are words which show that the Soviet Government is determined to realize the slogans of economic and social restructuring and to establish an open political climate—yet the reality is that crisis-fomenting problems in some of the Soviet republics, notably Armenia and Azarbayjan, will expand faster with in the scope of Gorbachev's new policies. In this respect, it seems that the government's confrontation with these problems can itself be a major obstacle to the execution of these new policies.

**'Thousands' Honor Former Health Minister Sami**
*LD2911175188 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 29 Nov 88*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—Thousands of people paid their respects to one of the popular figures of the Islamic revolution as they gathered in a mosque in Tehran Tuesday to commemorate the tragic death of Dr Kazem Sami.

In a short demonstration afterwards hundreds of the participants called Sami's death a conspiracy and asked officials to do their utmost to bring those involved to justice.

The 20-minute demonstration took place after a speech condemning the death and requesting officials "to prevent the reoccurrence and continuation of this conspiracy in future."

Two large halls at Jojjat ibn al-Hassan Mosque were packed by people shortly after the mourning ceremony began at 3 pm and hundreds of people had to stand outside, blocking the Sohrevardi main street in central Tehran.

Many officials and former officials were present, including ministers, Majles representatives and freedom movement leader and close associate of Sami, Engineer Mehdi Bazargan.

"Martyr Sami always remained loyal to his ideals. If he hadn't he wouldn't have been martyred in this way," said Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Yusefi Eshkevari [name as received] in a speech to the gathering.

Eshkevari, a first-term Majles representative and friend of the former health minister, disclosed that Dr Sami had been attacked six weeks earlier. He had been pulled out of his car and beaten in the street, leaving him with broken ribs.

If the grounds for such attacks had been removed and the elements involved had been quickly punished, Sami may have been alive today, he added while praising Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri's call for firm action to improve public security.

The head of Tehran's detective office said Tuesday that the murderer had been identified but he was still at large.

Angry demonstrators, numbering about a hundred marched for 15 minutes down Sohrevardi Street, shouting slogans against terrorism and for justice over Sami's murder. "This conspiracy is condemned. Martyr Sami is innocent," they shouted. Despite the charged atmosphere, there were no violent incidents.

The participants in the two-hour ceremony covered a wide range of political views and professions. There were many doctors who knew or had worked with Sami as well as journalists, students and ordinary folk.

The political personalities included Health Minister 'Ali Reza Marandi, Minister of Higher Education Mohammad 'Ali Najafi, Majles representatives Hojjat ol-Eslams Hadi Ghaffari and Sadeq Khalkhali as well as senior members of the Freedom Movement, namely Bazargan and Yadollah Sahabi.

Another meeting is planned to commemorate Sami on Friday morning at the Hoseyniyeh Ershad here.

**Links Between Dr Sami, Montazeri Detailed**
*LD3012230888 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Montazeri has admitted in a statement the absence of security in the country. This statement, which was addressed to the father of Dr Kazem Sami and which was a note of condolence to him, was issued at the same time as confirmation of the news of the execution of Omid Najafabadi and nearly ten others, who were supporters of Montazeri, by the special clergy's court.

According to news agency reports, there were certain specific contacts between Dr Sami and Montazeri, and sometime before he fell vicitim to the cowardly blows of groups from within the ruling clique, Sami had met with Montazeri. Progressive circles in Iran and the world, expressing their regret at the assasination of Dr Sami and conveying their condolences to his family, are calling for the arrest and open trial of the murderers so that all those involved in this conspiracy may be identified.

**FRG's Genscher Departs; Velayati Comments**
*LD3011175888 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Excerpts] The FRG foreign minister left the Islamic Republic of Iran after a visit to Iran which lasted several days. He was seen off by Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Regarding the FRG foreign minister's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati said: [Begin Velayati recording] The delegation accompanying him was a full and comprehensive delegation and they had very fruitful discussions on various issues with their Iranian counterparts. We regard the opening which has stemmed from his visit as a very positive beginning. In the near future, ministers in different fields from both sides will have meetings in both countries. For instance, the FRG housing and agriculture minister will come to Iran, and the joint commission of the two countries will meet in Tehran toward the beginning of the next Christian year. The preleminary committee for preparing the work of the joint commission will meet in the FRG before the end of the current Christian year. Both sides are determined to strengthen bilateral relations and international cooperation. The UN missions from the two countries will continue their cooperation as in the past. [end recording]

### Majles Speaker on 'Cordial' Relations With Turkey

*TA3011163388 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1555 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Excerpt] Tehran (AA)—Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Iranian Majles speaker and acting commander in chief, has said that his country's relations with Turkey are very cordial and added that the recent diplomatic incident is not of a dimension that can undermine this relationship.

In response to a question by an AA correspondent during a news conference Hashemi-Rafsanjani held in Tehran on Tuesday, as to whether the mutual expulsion of diplomats has affected relations between Ankara and Tehran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Our relationship with Turkey is extremely cordial. During the war, Turkey was one of the countries with which we had the best of relations. The incident in question is not one that can undermine the strong relationship between our two countries. [passage omitted]

### Envoys Meet With Kuwaiti, Omani Officials

*LD3012190188 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—Iran's charge d'affaires Hoseyn Naraqiyan today handed to Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The Bahraini official stressed full support for implementation of U.N. Resolution 598 that seeks to end the 8 years of Iraqi hostility against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Naraqiyan, briefed Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah on Iraqi obstruction of Resolution 598 and its aborting of the exchange of disabled POWS.

Meanwhile in Kuwait, Iranian charge d'affaires Mohammad Hoseyn Forughi today met Minister of Finance and Economy Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi to discussed expansion of economic and trade ties.

In related news from the Persian Gulf littoral, Iran's ambassador to Muscat Mohammad 'Arab discussed bilateral ties with Oman's head of the Consultative Council Shaykh 'Abdullah ibn 'Ali al-Qabt [name as received].

### Hungary's Grosz Reiterates Interest in Cooperation

*LD3011175788 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—Hungarian Communist Party leader Karoly Grosz' message for Premier Mir Hoseyn Musavi was delivered by Hungarian ambassador here, Zsigmond Kazmer Wednesday.

Grosz termed his recent visit to Iran successful and reiterated Hungary's interest in implementing joint agreements. He also extended an invitation to Musavi to pay another visit to Hungary, following the one in October 1986.

The Hungarian leader's message was handed to Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Alireza Mo'ayeri.

The Hungarian Communist Party leader paid a 3-day official visit to Tehran from in October during which agreement was reached on industrial cooperation including setting up of cement and tyre factories.

### Khamene'i Says Iraq Fears War Reparations

*LD0112145188 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA—Iraqi maneuverings to hinder full enforcement of U.N. Resolution 598 betrays its fear of Article 6 which calls for explicitly naming the aggressor, said President 'Ali Khamene'i today.

"If Article 6 of Resolution 598 is enforced, the Baghdad regime will have to pay Iran billions of dollars as war reparation, and this explains Iraqi fears to reach that stage," he added.

Article 6 of U.N. Security Council resolution calls for forming of a committee to identify the party responsible for starting the war.

The president reiterated that all articles of Resolution 598 must be precisely implemented one after the other and to this end Iran's diplomacy should function actively and vigilantly.

On Iraq's continued presence in parts of Iranian territory despite Iran's withdrawal from large parts of captured Iraqi areas following the ceasefire, he said the alertness and combat readiness of Iranian troops on border areas will force the enemy to end its occupation.

Elsewhere in his speech to a group of 'ulema, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i termed the role of 'ulema on the battlefields as important as that of military commanders, and asked them to maintain their presence until the ultimate end of the Iraqi-imposed war.

Asked about the resumption of gas exports to the Soviet Union as per the recently signed contract, he replied the trade accord will in no way make the country dependent on any power.

Turning to foreign experts in the country Khamene'i described their presence as "not detrimental" but he said the limits of their activities should be determined. However, concluded the president "foreign military experts are definitely not allowed here."

### Velayati Writes Red Cross on POW Exchanges

*LD3011175688 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—The Iraqi regime's hurdle in the exchange of disabled POWS was complained to the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar [name as received] today.

In a letter to the ICRC president, he charged Iraq for its refusal to return several POWS without any valid reasons and drew Cornelio Sommaruga's attention that the two sides had agreed to provide essential information each time the required number was not released.

As per the understanding reached in Geneva earlier this month. Iran and Iraq were to swap a total of 1569 disabled POWS in ten batches, Iran 115 each time and Iraq 42.

In three stages, Iran providing necessary information repatriated 155 POWS, while only 56 were set free by the Iraqi regime without citing any reasons for withholding of the rest, an act which forced the Islamic Republic to shelve the exchange last Sunday.

Under the very eyes of ICRC officials a number of disabled Iraqi POWS sought asylum at the last moment refusing to go back to their home country while several others as verified by Red Cross doctors have recovered from their illness.

Reminding the ICRC president of the above facts, Velayati noted Iraq gave no explanation why it did not repatriate the other disabled Iranians during the three stages.

The foreign minister warning that the Iraqi act was detrimental to the Geneva understanding called for the release of all sick and wounded Iranian POWS.

Iran will not resume the exchange unless all disabled Iranians not repatriated in the initial stages are set free by Iraq.

### Women Honored on 5th Day of Basij Week

*LD0112083588 Tehran IRNA in English 0809 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—November 30 marks the fifth day of a 7-day nationwide ceremonies marking the eighth anniversary of the creation of the paramilitary "Basij" a military force originally of volunteers created upon the behest of Imam Khomeyni on November 26, 1980.

Basij, in Persian meaning "mobilization", was the name actually of a projected 20-million army of volunteers to operate alongside the regular forces in post-revolution Iran.

In 1980 Imam Khomeyni said at a speech in Tehran that a Muslim nation with a youth population of 20 million should have an army of 20-million, and hence his order for the formation of the Basij. Since that time the formation of a 20-million army has been a rallying cry in Iran, the slogan being inscribed even on the walls of city streets.

Initially the paramilitary "Basij" relied almost solely on untrained youth willing to learn the various skills of ground fighting as well as civil defence, and appealed especially to fervent revolutionaries among the youth, workers, and the economically lower-class sector of the Iranian society. Since its creation the paramilitary force has steadily grown to a full-size army of substantial strength, providing combat or back-up support to Muslim fighters at the fronts or occasionally engaging in various civil defence or related operations here and there throughout Iran.

The eight years of war was a challenge to the entirety of Basij which surprisingly turned out more as an actual training course for the force rather than a threat to its existence. Throughout the eight years of the war the "Basijis" (Persian for a person enlisted in basij) regularly fought at the forefronts and carried out extensive guerrilla operations against the invading Iraqis. They were also responsible, in conjuction with other forces, for pushing the Iraqi forces out of many Iranian towns and cities near the battlefronts.

City streets in Tehran and elsewhere throughout the country on Tuesday were scenes for mock-operations by the Basijis. With the actual check-points to pass through by motorists, heavy and semi-heavy machine guns installed at corner streets with Basijis standing guard behind walls of sand bags holding light machine-guns or

other firearms and clothed in spotted khaki uniforms the city was reminiscent of the early days of the triumph of the Islamic revolution. Despite the operations and the frequent checks, however, the traffic in Tehran was not any worse than on previous days.

Since Saturday Persian dailies have invariably allotted whole pages to the topic and written extensively on it, quoted Imam Khomeyni, and various other officials and paid tribute to the Basijis or dignified them for the thousands of the bold acts which they have done at the war fronts and elsewhere in the country on other occasions.

Wednesday November 30th, the fifth day of the Basij week, was named in honor of the thousands of young Muslim women enlisted in Basij, and the mid-day newcast on the Tehran radio featured also an interview with a Muslim woman in charge of recruiting and training Iranian Muslim women for the Basij throughout the country.

What really the paramilitary Basij can do for the Islamic Republic may remain for the future to see. Iran, with 2,500 kilometers of borderline with the Soviet Union and about the same length of border with Iraq, and the long coastal borders with the Persian Gulf states is geographically surrounded by countries somehow aligned with either of the power blocks, and would therefore need a versatile contingency force able to deploy and easily cope with unexpected developments in the region.

Even long before the culmination of the Islamic revolution and while he struggled against the shah, Imam Khomeyni regularly alerted the Iranians against the threats of the United States and the Soviet Union. His warnings since the culmination of the Islamic revolution have been more frequent and more serious in tone. The imam on countles occasions has said that both the Soviets and the Americans are actual enemies of Muslims and of the Islamic Republic and that they continuously plot against the Islamic revolution and against the stability in Iran. He sees a 20-million Muslim army capable of coping with external threats of both superpowers in Iran, and has described the Basij as being as dear to him as his own 'heart.'

### Naval Maneuvers in Gulf Continue Near Bushehr

*LD3011165488 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—Attacks against hypothetical enemy warplanes and flaring targets, were carried out on the third day of Jowshan-1 maneuvers Wednesday in the northern waters of the Persian Gulf.

The exercise near Bushehr, watched by naval commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan, is designed to test the Navy's efficiency.

Naval units also tracked aircraft, swept mines and helicopters landed on "enemy" warships.

Missile launchers, destroyers, logistical vessels, minehunting helicopters as well as frogmen are involved in the maneuvers which is to last for another three days.

### 31 Tudeh Party Members Allegedly Executed

*TA3011170688 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio*
*in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] According to reports at hand, 31 Tudeh Party members have been executed on the order of the Islamic Republic regime. These individuals had been languishing in the Islamic Republic's prisons since the (?summer of 1983). Our fellow strugglers have reported from Tehran that three of those executed [names indistinct] were members of the Tudeh Party Central Committee, while four others [names indistinct] were members of the party's Politburo. [passage indistinct]

## Pakistan

### President Appoints Bhutto Prime Minister

*BK0112131488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1300 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 1 (AFP)—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan Thursday appointed Benazir Bhutto as Pakistan's next prime minister.

In a nationwide broadcast he said the governing emergency council set up after the late President Mohammed Ziaul Haq's death in a plane crash on August 17 had also been dissolved.

Ms. Bhutto, 35, who had been offered the post for being the leader of the country's major political party, the Pakistan People's Party, will take over in a completely democratic manner, Mr. Khan said. She will be sworn in as the Muslim world's first woman prime minister Friday morning.

Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) emerged as the winner of the first party-based elections in Pakistan for 11 years on November 16.

### People's Party Secures 12 of 20 Women's Seats

*BK0112054788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] Elected assembly members to the reserved women's seats in the National Assembly will take their oath of office this morning. Provisional results of the reserved women's seats in the National Assembly from Punjab have been announced. The elected members are: Begum Rehana Sarwar, Begum Nadira Khakwani, Ms Amina Tiracha, Ms Shehnaz Begum, Ms Shehnaz Ali, Ms Abida Malik, and Ms Nasrin Begum—all from the Pakistan People's Party; Begum Sarwari Sadiq, Begum

Rehana Alim Mashhadi, Mrs Attiya Inayatullah, and Ms Amira Ahsan from Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [Democratic Alliance]; and independent member Ms Razia Sultana.

Of the two seats from NWFP one has gone to the Pakistan People's Party and one to the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad. The elected members are: Ms Mehrunnisa of the Pakistan People's Party and Begum Qulsum Saifullah of the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad.

Out of two seats from Baluchistan one has gone to the Pakistan People's party and one to Jamiat-e 'Ulema-e Islam-Fazlur Rahman Group. The elected members are: Ms Salima Razak of the Pakistan People's Party and Ms Bibi Amna of the Jamiat-e 'Ulema-e Islam-Fazlur Rahman Group.

Four candidates from Sind Province were elected unopposed. Three seats have gone to the Pakistan People's Party and one to the Muhajir Qaumi Movement. The elected members are Begum Shamim N.D. Khan, Mrs Ruqaiya Khanam Soomro, Ms Mahmud Arshad of the Pakistan People's Party, and Ms (Zahur Majid) of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement.

**Government 'Deeply Anguished' at Attache's Arrest**
*BK0112043288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Dec 88*

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad last night that the Pakistan Government is deeply anguished after learning by means of a press release issued by the Indian government in New Delhi that the Indian security authorities have arrested a Pakistani national, Mr Z.I. Abbasi. The spokesman said after receiving the news the Foreign Office immediately contacted the Pakistan Embassy in New Delhi which said that Indian Government officers, accompanied by Pakistan Embassy officials, have gone to get him released.

**UK Paper's Claim of Nuclear Help to Iran Denied**
*BK3011153488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has rejected the report of a British daily alleging that Pakistan is assisting Iran in the establishment of an atomic center at (Kazmin). The spokesman described this report as totally baseless and mischievious.

**MUSLIM Criticizes U.S. Policy on Palestine**
*BK3011121988 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Nov 88 p 4*

[Editorial: "Moderation Does Not Pay"]

[Text] The US response to the remarkably moderate stance adopted by the Palestine National Council [PNC] at its Algiers meeting reflects its cynical disregard for the rights and welfare of the Palestinian people. Attributing practically no significance to the PNC's acceptance of UN Resolution 242, the concerned US agencies have focused exclusively on its proclamation of an independent state of Palestine. This proclamation has been rejected by a state department spokesman on the grounds that the status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip "cannot be determined by unilateral acts of either side but through a process of negotiations." A White House spokesman adds it is "still not clear just how specific" the PLO has been in implicitly recognising Israel's right to exist.

There are, in these observations, two separate, if related issues that have been raised. One, the PNC has been accused of having taken matters into its own hands by declaring an independent Palestinian state and second it is being taken to task for not having explicitly recognised Israel. As for the first, a people's right to constitute a state in their own homeland is not a subject for negotiation. What is negotiable are the terms and conditions that other states may insist on by reference to their own perceived security requirements. Far from having closed the door in this regard, the Palestinians having accepted Security Council Resolution 242 have opted for the "two state" solution and given the clearest possible indication of their intent as the key provision of the resolution calls for the termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for the acknowledgement of the sovereignty and territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognised boundaries free from threats or acts of force".

Not only does the acceptance of the resolution represent a radical change in approach on the part of the PNC, it is in effect the substance of the concessions demanded by the US for many years as a precondition for the resolution of the issue. King Husayn of Jordan was only being straightforward in his advice to the United States when he said recently "I believe our friends in Washington better go back and look at the papers and positions they adopted....and see there is no difference (between what the United States had demanded and what the PNC had done)". The PNC he added "has gone as far as it could". This brings us to the second issue raised in the US response to the PNC initiative i.e., the lack of an explicit recognition of Israel's right to exist. Reportedly, the recognition of precisely this right implied in PNC's acceptance of Resolution 242 falls short of US expectations in the matter.

In a recent article Jean Kirkpatrick, an influential member of the pro-Israel lobby in the US, went to great lengths to point out the supposed lacunae in the Algiers declaration which she said were wrapped in "layers of ambiguity" and did not among other things clearly recognise Israel or explicitly endorse the idea of a Zionist state and a Palestinian state existing peacefully.

But the question is by what canon of equity or justice can the US demand more of the Palestinians without asking for any kind of a quid pro quo from Israel whose

intransigence, clearly abetted by the US stance, remains the only real obstacle to a satisfactory resolution of the issue.

Before it presses ahead in its mindless support of Israel's maniac aims, the US should seriously consider the implications of spurning the olive branch held out by the PNC which certainly carries within its fold the more extreme elements that still favour the gun over other means of settling the issue. They will assert themselves quickly if all progress towards a peaceful settlement remain blocked. As Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO himself declared at the Algiers meeting "let it also be clear that I can always come back to our Palestine National Council and declare that moderation does not pay". If and when that happens the United States will only have itself to blame.

Meanwhile, approximately thirty five countries have already accorded recognition to the new state, including China one of the permanent members of the United Nations' Security Council. The Soviet Union has clearly already signalled its intent by welcoming the proclamation of independence. One can only hope that the widening consensus over the issue among the nations of the world will induce the United States to review its position in the matter.

### Editorial on Indian Role in Maldives, Sri Lanka

*BK2711143288 Karachi DAWN in English*
*15 Nov 88 p 9*

[Editorial: "'Big Brother' Next Door"]

[Text] Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's recent statement that India was not emerging as a "big brother" in the South Asian region can at best be taken as an assertion by denial. He mentioned in the same breath Maldives and Sri Lanka, where India's military presence has been widely noted. The most important aspect of the military manoeuvre in Male has been a dramatic demonstration of India's capability for speedy and effective intervention. Mr Gandhi has pleaded (as perhaps the leader of any country mounting such an operation would) that India acted out of a "commitment to the promotion of peace and stability in keeping with our belief that countries in the region can resolve their problems in a spirit of friendship and cooperation, free of outside influence".

This is an admission that keeping outside influences at arm's length has been New Delhi's primary concern. It also means India reserves the right to decide what is best for "regional stability" and what course of action to take in a given situation to "protect" this stability. In plain terms, this boils down to an Indian version of the U.S. Monroe Doctrine which envisages a zone of influence in the Western hemisphere. "Regional security" has invariably been invoked by Washington to justify its interventionist action in Central America and the Caribbean whenever one was resorted to. In the case of Maldives, Mr Gandhi has, of course, the cover of a request for help from an elected President. Additionally, he has received nods of appreciation from Mr Reagan, Mr Gorbachev and Mrs Thatcher. But all that holds little comfort or reassurance for India's small neighbours who have to contend with the "big brother's" proven capability rather than proclaimed intentions, which essentially are inscrutable and can vary according to changing exigencies and circumstances as New Delhi sees and interprets them.

Sri Lanka's is a slightly different case. Here, India went all out to create certain conditions which forced Colombo to seek New Delhi's intervention. It first funded and armed the Tamil insurgents and connived at the setting up of their headquarters and supply and training centres in Tamil Nadu. At that stage, some Indian commentators even referred to a "Cyprus-like situation" in Sri Lanka, thus hinting at the possibility of a military intervention at an appropriate time. The agreement with Colombo which formalised the intervention has given at least one satisfaction to New Delhi. No foreign navy (except India's) would be allowed to use the harbour at Trincomalee without prior "consultation" with India.

There is also something to be said about the demonstration of India's ability to fight a giant tank battle on Pakistan's doorsteps in Rajasthan early last year. This extraordinarily prolonged and elaborate war-game could not have been without its intended message for this country, especially in the context of the two countries' uneasy and tension-ridden relations. With variations in form and nuance, a similar pattern can be discerned in India's relations with other neighbours, such as Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan.

All this points to a deliberate policy of the projection of India's power and might beyond its national frontiers. India has already emerged as the fourth largest military power in the world, with a navy which aspires to become the fifth largest—even though there is no naval threat to it from any of its neighbours. There is understandable concern among neighbours as well as in countries as far away as Indonesia and Australia over this development. The frantic arms build-up being pursued entails a tremendous cost, preempting resources for development and welfare. The enlightened sections of the Indian society, outside the Establishment, have been expressing serious doubts about the rationale of this policy.

The crucial point to note is that India is unilaterally assuming a regional role simply on the strength of its bloated military power—without any moral or political sanctions behind it. Neither the realities of interstate relations in South Asia nor India's own record of dealings with its neigbours would permit any such thing as a desirable proposition. The decision-makers in New Delhi would indeed do well to take a good look at the

history of foreign interventions. These have seldom served the interests of the country that chooses to intervene or of the ones for whose supposed benefit such operations are mounted.

## Sri Lanka

### Police Clash With 'Subversives'; 12 Reported Dead

*BK0112112288 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1019 GMT 1 Dec 88*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 1 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—Five persons alleged to be subversives, two policemen and five civilians, including a Sri Lanka Freedom Party [SLFP] supporter, were killed during the last 24 hours, official sources told LANKAPUVATH. Three suspected subversives along with a trap gun and ammunition were apprehended by security forces. Nine policemen and two home guards were injured in encounters with subversives.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that five unidentified persons, suspected to be subversives, had been killed at Bibile by counter-subversives in Sri Lanka's Uva Province District of Moneragala.

The charred body of a man was found this morning on the playgrounds of a school in Matara. A notice was found by the body stating the punishment had been meted out for having killed innocent persons.

Three suspected subversives were arrested by security forces at Walgampotha in the Ruwanwella police area Tuesday [29 November], and the forces recovered one trap gun, two rounds of .22 ammunition, one round of 7.62 ammunition, three rounds of shot gun cartridges, and thirty .22 empty cases.

A report from Hungama in the Hambantota District states that reserve police constable Lionel was stabbed to death by subversives this morning. This policeman had survived an earlier attack.

Official sources said that a sub-inspector of police was killed and two police constables injured when subversives fired at a mobile police patrol at 2135 hours [1605 GMT] last night at Seepukulam in the Kahatagasdigiliya police area in Sri Lanka's North Central Province District of Anuradhapura.

The officer-in-charge [OIC] of the Hakmana police station in Sri Lanka's Matara District was injured, when the driver of his jeep lost control as subversives opened fire and the vehicle went down a 40-foot precipice at Kongalla at 1130 hours yesterday. Two police constables and two home guards were also injured. They were all admitted to the Matara hospital.

According to security reports, the subversives had earlier attacked a police mobile patrol at the same location. The OIC had rushed to the rescue of the policemen, who were under attack and taken the four injured policemen to the Matara hospital. He was returning to the scene of the crime, when he too came under subversive gun fire.

A report from Wedikaumbura in the Monaragala District states that A.B.H. Kehelella, an SLFP supporter was shot dead by gunmen, suspected to be subversives of the Deshapremi Janatha Viyapara.

Meanwhile, roadblocks of felled trees and uprooted electricity posts set up by subversives at Hakmana, Bulathsinhala, and Horana were cleared by security forces, official sources said.

### President Requests Foreign Monitoring of Elections

*BK3011134888 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1206 GMT 30 Nov 88*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 30 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene today told Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed to immediately request the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Inter-parliamentary Union and the Commonwealth Secretariat to send representatives to help monitor the presidential elections to be held on December 19th this year and parliamentary elections later, a government spokesman told LANKAPUVATH today. He said these foreign monitors will, along with the monitoring committee appointed by the commissioner of elections, monitor these elections. He said that President Jayewardene had contacted some of these international groups as early as September with regards to monitoring but there had been no positive response.

Today's cabinet meeting also decided that the special presidential commission of inquiry act will continue on the statute book and strengthened and made permanent and accepted a proposal by National Security, Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali to amend the act so that the judges to serve on the presidential commission will be selected by the chief justice.

The combined assets and liabilities bill will also be introduced in parliament shortly.

### Governor of Northeastern Province Takes Oath

*BK3011123788 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Nov 88*

[Text] Former Army Commander Nalin Seneviratne took oath before the president this morning as governor of the Northeastern Provincial Council.